



REPORT

To: Rural Budgets Administration Committee

Report Number: FN-RBAC-049

From: Teri Vetter, Chief Financial Officer

Date: January 21, 2021

Subject: Grant Request – Fort St. John Public Library Association

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee authorize a grant, in the amount of \$10,000, payable from Electoral Area C, Fair Share, to be issued to the Fort St. John Public Library Association in support of CLICK - Creating Literacy in Computer Knowledge program.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

Fort St. John Public Library Association (FSJPLA) is applying for grant funding to assist with the CLICK program offered by the library. CLICK provides much needed computer literacy training to community members with little to no knowledge of computers or access to technology or the internet. The service is offered free of charge to users, of which 60% are seniors who do not know how to navigate in the ever increasing digital world. However, the library may not be able to offer this program in 2021 due to insufficient funds and is requesting \$10,000 from the PRRD to allow the program to go ahead. The total cost to operate CLICK is \$38,310.

Electoral Area C has provided \$819,000 in grant contributions to support the operation of the library since 2005. An additional grant in the amount of \$5,000 was issued in 2016 to support the library with the installation of a self-serve check out station.

The Fort St. John Public Library Association was established to oversee the operations of the Fort St. John public library and is governed by the obligations and regulations as set out in the Library Act of BC.

Full details of the program, proposed budget and financials can be found in the attached grant application.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee respectfully deny the grant application from the Fort St. John Public Library Association and provide no grant funding to support CLICK - Creating Literacy in Computer Knowledge program.
2. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee provide further direction.

Staff Initials: *JR*

Dept. Head: *Teri Vetter*

CAO: *Shawn Dahlen*

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

- As of December 31, 2020, the balance available after remaining commitments for Electoral Area C Fair Share is \$929,308.13.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

The grant applicant will be advised in writing of the Committee's decision and if funded is approved, will be asked to recognize the Regional District for its contribution.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None at time.

Attachments:

1. Grant Application Request – FSJPL