



# REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: ADM-BRD-068

From: Shawn Dahlen, Chief Administrative Officer

Date: August 12, 2020

**Subject: Regional Grant-in-Aid – Function 275 and 280**

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## **RECOMMENDATION #1: *[Corporate Unweighted]***

That the Regional Board receive the report titled Regional Grant-in-Aid Function 275 and 280, which provides the Board with options to consider for the continuation of Function 275 and 280 Regional Grant-in-Aid, for discussion.

## **BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

Following the May 7, 2020 Board meeting, staff completed a preliminary review of the Supplementary Letters Patent (SLP) that have been relied upon for decades as the authority for Regional Grants-in-Aid (Function 275).

### **SLP #23**

#### **(DIVISION XVI – REC PROGRAMS, DIVISION XVII – COMMUNITY SERVICES, DIVISION XVIII – REGIONAL PARKS, DIVISION XIX – NOXIOUS WEEDS)**

Dated March 31, 1976, provides no direct authority for provision of grants. At that time, the Peace River Liard Regional District was given approval to offer recreational programming, community services (acquisition of property for recreation or community uses by the public) regional parks (acquisition and operation of property for park use), and control of noxious weeds.

### **SLP #37 (AMENDS MAX REQUISITION FOR REC PROGRAMMING, COMMUNITY SERVICES, etc.)**

Dated June 19, 1980, amends Division XVI Recreational Programmes and Division XVII Community Services wording from SLP #23 to include “shall not exceed the product of one-quarter of one mill on the current taxable assessed value of improvements for school purpose.” (increased the maximum requisition allowable for these authorities).

### **SLP #38 (DIVISION XXIII – RECREATION FACILITIES GRANTS IN AID)**

Dated June 19, 1980, provided authority for recreation facility grants-in-aid, funded only by the **electoral areas**, as noted below:

“The Regional District may make grants in aid to assist in meeting the cost of operation and maintenance of recreation facilities serving the participating member municipalities referred to in paragraph 1.”

*\*Paragraph 1 mentions only Electoral Areas A, B, C, D, and E as the participants in this function – don’t be confused by the reference to the participants as member*

*municipalities, as in fact, the participants are all electoral areas and NO municipalities are participants in this authority.*

This SLP is obsolete as the authority was converted by Recreation and Cultural Facilities Grants-In Aid Conversion Bylaw No. 669, 1990.

The careful examination of the authority in place for grants-in-aid, first given through SLP #38, and later converted to an established function through Recreation and Cultural Facilities Grants-In Aid Conversion Bylaw No. 669, 1990, means that Regional Grants-in-Aid can no longer be administered as they have been in the past, as there is no authority to do so.

Under the current authority, (Conversion Bylaw 669, 1990) the grants-in-aid are funded only by the electoral areas, and allow for grants only for operation and maintenance of recreation facilities. Health care scholarships, community event grants, and many other grants previously approved as part of this function cannot be permitted.

### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

1. That the Regional Board continue administering regional grants-in-aid according to the Recreation and Culture Facilities Grants-in-Aid Conversion Bylaw No. 669, 1990 (Supplementary Letter Patent #38).
2. That the Regional Board seek amendment of the Recreation and Culture Facilities Grants-in-Aid Conversion Bylaw No. 669, 1990 (Supplementary Letter Patent #38) to become inclusive of health care grants, as well as revisiting maximum amounts expended.
3. That the Regional Board continue administering Supplementary Letter Patent No. 23 for recreational programs, community services, regional parks and control of noxious weeds.
4. That the Regional Board seek the conversion of Supplementary Letter Patent No. 23, to a Service Establishment Bylaw to be inclusive of a regional grant-in-aid service.
5. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:**

- ☒ Organizational Effectiveness
- ☒ Comprehensive Policy Review

### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):**

\$234,304 was approved for Regional Grant-in-Aid for 2020. (Function 275)

\$279,650 was approved for Recreational and Cultural Facilities for 2020. (Function 280)

### **COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):**

None at this time.

**OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):**

SLP # 23 is administered under Function 275.

SLP # 38 is administered under Function 280.

The deadline for completion of a conversion bylaw that is applicable to the 2021 taxation year is October 1, 2020. It will be impossible to complete a conversion bylaw prior to that date, if that is the Board's direction, as a conversion bylaw or bylaw amendments in this case, require Ministry approval. The Ministry website suggests a 6-8 week turn-around time for approval of bylaws. As SLP's 38, 23 and Bylaw 669, 1990 provide no authority for grants outside of their identified parameters, it is unlikely that Regional grants not applicable to existing SLP's and Bylaws, will be approved through the 2021 financial process.

**Attachments:**

1. Recreation and Cultural Facilities Grants-In Aid Conversion Bylaw No. 669, 1990
2. SLP #23
3. SLP #37
4. SLP #38