



# REPORT

To: Committee of the Whole

Report Number: FN-COW-005

From: Teri Vetter, Chief Financial Officer

Date: January 28, 2021

**Subject: 2020 Surplus and 2021 Grant Applications for Function 275 – Grants to Community Organizations**

---

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

That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional Board approve the multi-year grant commitments totalling \$391,400 be included in Function 275 – Grants to Community Organizations 2021 budget, funded from the 2020 surplus, for the following organizations:

- STARS \$170,000
- Canadian Cancer Society \$50,000
- Peace Liard Arts Council \$10,000
- South Peace Health Services Society \$150,000 (for 2020 and 2021)
- School District 60 – Rural Learn to Swim \$10,000
- South Peace District Crime Prevention \$1,400

## **RECOMMENDATION #2: *[Corporate Unweighted]***

That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional Board approve \$102,389 for Health Care Scholarships be included in Function 275 – Grants to Community Organizations 2021 budget, with funding of \$44,095 from Medical Scholarship Reserve and \$58,294 from 2020 surplus.

## **RECOMMENDATION #3: *[Corporate Unweighted]***

That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional Board approve \$100,000 for North Peace Division of Family Practice be included in Function 275 – Grants to Community Organizations 2021 budget, funded from 2020 surplus.

## **RECOMMENDATION #4: *[Corporate Unweighted]***

That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional Board approve an allocation of \$50,000 for Search and Rescue groups to be included in Function 275 – Grants to Community Organizations 2021 budget, funded from 2020 surplus.

## **RECOMMENDATION #5: *[Corporate Unweighted]***

That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional Board authorize a grant in the amount of \$36,000, payable from the 2020 surplus in Function 275 – Grants to Community Organizations, Regional Grant-in-Aid, to be issued to Dawson Creek Charity Society to support operational costs; and further,

That \$36,000 be included as a grant commitment as part of Function 275 – Grants to Community Organizations, Regional Grant-in-Aid in the 2021 Annual Budget.

**RECOMMENDATION #6: *[Corporate Unweighted]***

That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional Board authorize a grant in the amount of \$2,000, payable from the 2020 surplus in Function 275 - Grants to Community Organizations, Regional Grant-in-Aid, to be issued to Dawson Creek Triathlon Association to assist with their event being held on July 18, 2021; and further,

That \$2,000 be included as a grant commitment as part of Function 275 – Grants to Community Organizations, Regional Grant-in-Aid in the 2021 Annual Budget.

**RECOMMENDATION #7: *[Corporate Unweighted]***

That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional Board authorize a grant in the amount of \$15,000, payable from the 2020 surplus in Function 275 – Grants to Community Organizations, Regional Grant-in-Aid, to be issued to the Northern Environmental Action Team to assist with the Northern Youth Climate Summit; and further,

That \$15,000 be included as a grant commitment as part of Function 275 – Grants to Community Organizations, Regional Grant-in-Aid in the 2021 Annual Budget.

**RECOMMENDATION #8: *[Corporate Unweighted]***

That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional Board authorize a grant in the amount of \$5,000, payable from the 2020 surplus in Function 275 – Grants to Community Organizations, Regional Grant-in-Aid, to be issued to Peace Country Barrel Racing Association to assist with hosting barrel racing events in 2021; and further,

That \$5,000 be included as a grant commitment as part of Function 275 – Grants to Community Organizations, Regional Grant-in-Aid in the 2021 Annual Budget.

**RECOMMENDATION #9: *[Corporate Unweighted]***

That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional Board authorize a grant in the amount of \$5,000, payable from the 2020 surplus in Function 275 – Grants to Community Organizations, Regional Grant-in-Aid, to be issued to the SPARK Women's Leadership Conference Society to assist with the 2021 conferences; and further,

That \$5,000 be included as a grant commitment as part of Function 275 – Grants to Community Organizations, Regional Grant-in-Aid in the 2021 Annual Budget.

**BACKGROUND/RATIONALE for RECOMMENDATION #1-4:**

At the August 18, 2020 Special Board meeting, the Regional Board passed the following resolution:

*MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED*

That the Regional Board be provided with a report on the anticipated 2020 surplus balance of Function 275 – Grants to Community Organizations, and the potential to use the surplus to fund Regional Grants-in-Aid and Economic Development projects in the 2021 budget year, as the Board determines a path forward for economic development and grants to community organizations.

The requested report for Function 275 that was brought to the September 10, 2020 Board meeting is attached for reference. In September, the surplus for this function was an estimate.

**BACKGROUND/RATIONALE for RECOMMENDATIONS #5-9:**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee of the Whole (COW) with information to assist their review of the 2021 Regional Grant-in-Aid Applications. The Regional Grant-in-Aid policy establishes the guidelines for how grant funding may be used to assist eligible organizations to carry out projects, services or events that are regional in scope and benefit residents. The policy also outlines in Section 4.12, a criteria to determine the merit for each proposed project as follows:

- The Committee of the Whole may wish to use the following criteria to determine the merit of each request:
  - a. New, Incremental Initiatives;
  - b. Community Need;
  - c. Geographic Scope;
  - d. Community Development; and
  - e. Cost Effectiveness.

The 2021 Regional Grant-in-Aid applications include requests for both one-time and multi-year grant contributions. A total of five grant applications were received equating to a combined total of \$63,000 in support being requested for 2021. Recommendations are being made to support one-time grant contributions only with the option to fund the grants from the current 2020 surplus identified in Function 275 - Grants to Community Organizations. No recommendations to support multi-year grants are being made at this time due to the existing authority that prohibits any requisition of funds under Function 275 – Grants to Community Organizations be authorized for the issuance of grants.

Each grant application has been reviewed by staff to ensure all supporting documentation is included and the applicant is in compliance with the Regional Grant-in-Aid policy (attached). A summary of the applications that outlines key criteria and information and a copy of each grant application has been included with this report.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

1. That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional Board respectfully deny all 2021 Regional Grant-in-Aid applications and provide no grant funding in 2021.
2. That the Committee of the Whole provide further direction.

**STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:**

- ☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):**

Now that all expenses have been paid out, the 2020 surplus for Function 275 – Grants to Community Organizations is \$688,353. This is mainly due to 2020 items being budgeted for and not paid out or under budget such as:

- North Peace Division of Family Practice for \$100,000
- Health Care Scholarships being \$31,445 under budget
- General Grants being \$231,644 under budget
- Rural Grants-in-Aid \$353,783 under budget

With the 2020 surplus of \$688,353 the Regional Board has the opportunity to include Medical Recruitment grants, Health Care Scholarships, multi-year grant commitments and Grants to Community Organization grant applications in the 2021 budget through 2020 surplus and use of \$44,095 from Medical Scholarship Reserve, which has a balance of \$105,815.53 as of December 31, 2020

If the Committee of the Whole chooses to recommend that the Regional Board fund all of the above multi-year grants, scholarships, and grant applications, the surplus will be depleted to zero and Function 275 will have a balanced budget.

**COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):**

None.

**OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):**

None.

**Attachments:**

1. Function 275 – Grant to Community Organizations 2021 Draft Budget
2. 2021 Regional GIA Summary and Application Package
3. Regional Grant-Aid-Policy
4. 2020 Surplus Balance for 275 – Grants to Community Organizations – FN-BRD-015