



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: ADM-BRD-112

From: Shawn Dahlen, Chief Administrative Officer

Date: January 14, 2021

Subject: Function 280 Recreation and Cultural Facilities Grants

RECOMMENDATION: [Corporate Unweighted, LGA s.208 (1) (2a)]

That the Regional Board give Recreation and Cultural Facilities and Services Grants-in-Aid Amendment Bylaw No. 2424, 2020, to expand the scope of Function 280, Recreation and Cultural Facilities Grants in Aid, beyond grants for operation and maintenance of recreation and cultural facilities, to add the authority to provide grants to community organizations that operate or provide recreational and cultural **services**, and to add the authority for **grants for capital projects that enhance recreational and cultural facilities**, first, second and third reading.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

During the annual review and adoption of the financial plan in 2020, the Peace River Regional District Board questioned how Function 280, Recreation and Cultural Facilities Grants was being utilized for Regional Grant-in Aid. Upon investigation, it was revealed that the function was being utilized for grants outside of the authority originally provided via Supplementary Letters Patent 38 and later converted into a local service by Recreation and Cultural Facilities Grants in Aid Conversion Bylaw No. 669, 1990.

On August 18, 2020, the Regional Board passed the following resolutions:

MOVED, SECONDED, and CARRIED

That the Regional Board receive the report titled "Regional Grant-in-Aid Function 275 and 280 – ADM-BRD-068", which provides the Board with options to consider for the continuation of Function 275 and 280 Regional Grant-in-Aid, for discussion.

MOVED, SECONDED, and CARRIED

That the Regional Board authorize that Recreation and Cultural Facilities Grants-in-Aid Conversion Bylaw No. 669, 1990 be amended to allow Electoral Area Directors to provide funding to organizations that operate or provide services within their jurisdictions.

Supplementary Letters Patent (SLP) 38

Dated June 19, 1980, this SLP provided the original 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 function.*

This Supplementary Letters Patent (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, revealed that Regional Grants-In-Aid for items other than grants for the operation and maintenance of recreation and cultural facilities could no longer be administered as they had been in the past, as the SLP nor resulting conversion bylaw (669) provided the 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 other grants previously approved as part of this function cannot be permitted. However, the *Local Government Act, (s.349)* provides the authority to amend establishing bylaws, and sets out the process that must be followed in order to amend an existing function or service.

The attached amendment bylaw (Bylaw 2424) adds the authority to provide grants in aid for community organizations that offer recreational and cultural services, and the authority to provide grants in aid for capital projects that enhance recreational and cultural facilities, so long as no borrowing is required, to the function. Funding will continue to be provided through taxation revenue in the electoral areas only, and the maximum requisition has not been increased, as the existing maximum threshold provides ample funding for recreation and cultural grants. The bylaw also continued to require that the funding for facilities and services in any specific rural area, is funded directly by taxation from that area.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board provide additional amendments to Recreation and Cultural Facilities and Services Grants in Aid Amendment Bylaw 2424 for inclusion in the bylaw prior to it being considered for first three readings.
2. That the Regional Board refuse Recreation and Cultural Facilities and Services Grants in Aid Amendment Bylaw 2424.
3. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☒ Organizational Effectiveness
- ☒ Comprehensive Policy Review

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

\$279,650 was approved in the 2020 Financial Plan for Recreational and Cultural Facility grants.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

If approved by the Board, the Electoral Area Directors, as participants in the service, must provide written consent to the amendment, as per the *Local Government Act*, Section 347(2) and Section 349(2). Those written approvals, along with the Bylaw 2424, will be forwarded to the Ministry for their approval. Once approval has been obtained, and/or any conditions on approval imposed by the Ministry have been met (such as assent of the electors) the bylaw may be considered for adoption.

Attachments:

1. Supplementary Letters Patent #38
2. Recreation and Cultural Facilities Grant in Aid Conversion Bylaw No. 669, 1990
3. Recreation and Cultural Facilities and Services Grants in Aid Amendment Bylaw 2424, 2020
4. Draft Consolidated Bylaw 669, 1990 (as amended by 2424, 2020)