



REPORT

To: Rural Budgets Administration Committee

Report Number: FN-RBAC-077

From: Teri Vetter, Chief Financial Officer

Date: April 22, 2021

Subject: COVID-19 Safe Re-Start Grant-in-Aid Policy

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee recommend that the Regional Board adopt the COVID-19 Safe Re-Start Grant-in-Aid Policy, which sets out principles and guidelines for giving grants to external organizations that provide core community services from the COVID Reserve fund.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

On April 15, 2020, the Regional Board passed the following resolution:

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED

That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee recommend that the Regional Board authorize a policy and application be developed specific to the COVID-19 Safe Re-Start Grant; and further, that the policy be brought back to a future RBAC meeting for consideration.

The COVID Safe Re-Start Grant was given to support local governments as they deal with increased operating costs and lower revenues due to COVID-19, ensuring local governments can continue to deliver the services people demand on in their communities throughout the pandemic.

Eligible use of funds, as set out by the Province, are as follows:

- addressing revenue shortfalls
- facility reopening and operating costs
- emergency planning and response costs
- bylaw enforcement and protective services
- computer and other electronic technology costs
- services for vulnerable persons

The grant was given to cover the local government expenses throughout the pandemic, however, the Province is allowing contributions to third-parties providing they are charitable, philanthropic and/or not-for-profits organizations that are providing core community services during COVID-19.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

☒ Comprehensive Policy Review

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

In November 2020, the PRRD received \$700,000 and a further top-up of \$384,000 in March 2021 for a total of \$1,084,000.

\$75,775 was allocated from the reserve fund to cover the incurred costs of 2020 for the Regional District. The balance as at March 31, 2021 of the COVID Reserve is \$1,009,299.06.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

Once the COVID Safe Re-Start Grant-in-Aid policy is approved, it will be posted to the PRRD website.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

Attachments:

1. Draft COVID Safe Re-Start Grant-in Aid Policy