

# Report to Council



**Date:** January 28, 2019  
**File:** 0710-01  
**To:** City Manager  
**From:** Tara Bergeson, Urban Forestry Technician  
**Subject:** Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Program Funding

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT Council receives, for information, the report of the Urban Forestry Technician dated January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 regarding the 2019 Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Program funding;

AND THAT Council directs staff to apply for a grant from the CRI program to pursue wildfire mitigation activities as outlined in the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Program Funding report of the Urban Forestry Technician dated January 28, 2019;

AND FURTHER THAT upon confirmation of the grant award, the 2019 Financial Plan be amended to include the receipt of up to \$100,000 from the Community Resiliency Investment Program.

## **Purpose:**

To seek Council approval towards an application for funding through the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Program.

## **Background:**

The City of Kelowna has a well-established Community Wildfire Protection Program. Program priorities are determined by our current *Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)* and fuel reduction in our public forests to mitigate forest fires in Kelowna has been ongoing for 20 years.

The CWPP is a document that defines the risk from wildfires in an identified area, identifies measures necessary to mitigate those risks, and outlines a plan of action to be implemented.

Current CWPP prioritized recommendations have been assessed and many are achievable with current resources. Staff have already undertaken some of these, however there are further recommendations that require additional resources and/or expertise to undertake, including:

- Expanded wildfire fuel mitigation across the eastern parcel of Knox Mountain Park;

- Development of a wildfire fuel mitigation maintenance schedule for previously treated areas;
- Development of a landscaping standard for wildland-urban interface areas that meets FireSmart guidelines;
- An updated Terms of Reference document that will be provided to developers and qualified professionals completing the assessments that lists all required elements of a basic wildfire hazard report; and
- Assessment of our current development regulations to identify opportunities to align the regulations with the goals of our CWPP.

To support these additional activities, staff are seeking Council support for funding from a new program offered through the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). The Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) Program is a provincially-funded program intended to reduce the risk and impact of wildfire to communities in BC through community funding, supports, and priority fuel management activities within municipal boundaries. Kelowna is eligible for up to \$100,000/year. Staff intend to complete all activities listed above, and to apply for subsequent funding in 2020. Applications for CRI Program funding require Council resolution.

Consultation has been completed with the Kelowna Fire Department and the Community Planning Department on CWPP recommendations, and the activities listed above reflect agreement on the priorities to be addressed through the CRI program.

**Internal Circulation:**

Communications Advisor  
 Community Planning Manager  
 Fire Chief  
 Infrastructure Operations Manager  
 Park Services Manager  
 Suburban and Rural Planning Manager  
 Urban Forestry Supervisor

**Considerations not applicable to this report:**

**Legal/Statutory Authority:**

**Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:**

**Personnel Implications:**

**Financial/Budgetary Considerations:**

**External Agency/Public Comments:**

**Alternate Recommendation:**

**Existing Policy:**

**Communications Comments:**

Submitted by:

T. Bergeson, Urban Forestry Technician

Approved for inclusion:



Joe Creron, Deputy City Manager - Operations

cc: Kelowna Fire Department, Community Planning