

# Report to Council



**Date:** August 26, 2019  
**To:** Council  
**From:** City Manager  
**Subject:** Grant Award - Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) Foundation of BC  
**Department:** Utility Services

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT Council receive for information the report from Utility Services dated August 26, 2019, regarding a grant award from the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) Foundation of BC;

AND THAT the Financial Plan be amended to include a \$25,000 grant awarded to the City of Kelowna on behalf of the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) Foundation of BC as outlined in the grant award report dated August 26, 2019.

## **Purpose:**

To amend the Financial Plan and accept a \$25,000 Blue Water Grant from RBC to support the development of an innovative water use calculation software program and improve water conservation efforts.

## **Background:**

The Water Regulation Bylaw 10480 requires property owners to submit a Landscape Water Conservation Report (LWCR) for approval when installing or retrofitting irrigation systems larger than 100 m<sup>2</sup> to ensure that water conservation measures and appropriate landscape design are implemented. A recent survey indicates that compliance is low (18%) relative to the number of new irrigation systems being installed. This is partly due to the perceived onerous process of filling out and submitting the current LWCR form in its current format.

In order to make the LWCR process more accessible and user friendly, an innovative online water calculation version was conceived. This will allow applicants to easily navigate and input irrigation design information to ensure that they select appropriate irrigation fixtures, water conscious materials, and utilize appropriate soil amendments in order to meet the City Bylaw water budget requirements. The tool will also generate a customized LWCR, to be submitted electronically, that will notify the owner and the City whether the design proposal complies with the Bylaw.

**Discussion:**

The on-line water calculator will be developed with the assistance of the Partnership for Water Sustainability in B.C. (PWSBC), a not-for-profit society that works to promote and protect natural water resources. This organization has programming experience in this area and a mandate to bridge water related partnerships between provincial and local governments. The online tool will serve as a model to other water conservation groups or municipalities in B.C.

RBC was approached as a potential funding partner through their Blue Water Project, which supports community environmental projects. The City was informed of the grant award on July 30, 2019, which requires Council approval for fund transfer. This RBC grant will be used for the PWSBC costs related to the software development. The City contribution will be primarily staff time for project management and \$5,000 from our water conservation budget.

A cheque presentation ceremony would be organized by RBC representatives and publicly promoted by both the City of Kelowna and RBC.

**Conclusion:**

This is a privileged opportunity to have a recognized, external organization provide a one-time financial donation to a City sponsored environmental protection initiative.

**Internal Circulation:**

Finance

Communications

Business and Entrepreneurial Development

**Considerations applicable to this report:*****Financial/Budgetary Considerations:***

Approval of the donation amount would increase the City's revenue budget by \$25,000.

***Communications Comments:***

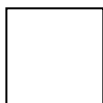
Partnership promotion through social media and other media releases

**Considerations not applicable to this report:*****Legal/Statutory Authority:******Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:******Existing Policy:******External Agency/Public Comments:***

Submitted by:

Ed Hoppe – Water Quality and Customer Care Supervisor

Approved for inclusion:



cc: Financial Planning Manager