

# Report to Council



**Date:** July 13, 2020  
**To:** Council  
**From:** City Manager  
**Subject:** Health Canada Substance Use and Addictions Program Funding – PEOPLE Peer Navigators and Capacity Building Project  
**Department:** Active Living and Culture

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT Council receive for information the report from the Active Living and Culture Department dated July 13, 2020 regarding funding received under the Health Canada Substance Use and Addictions Program for a PEOPLE Peer Navigators and Capacity Building Project;

AND THAT COUNCIL approve the amendment of the 2020 Financial Plan to include \$691,000 for a three-year Health Canada grant program.

## **Purpose:**

To provide Council with background and information on the PEOPLE Peers Navigators and Capacity Building Project, and to request that Council amend the 2020 budget to include funding related to the multi-year Health Canada Substance Use and Addiction Program funding.

## **Background:**

The City, working in partnership with Urban Matters and PEOPLE Lived Experience Society recently received notification from Health Canada that the application for PEOPLE Peer Navigators and Capacity Building Project received full funding for three years under the Health Canada Substance Use and Addictions Funding Program (SUAP). This funding program provides grants and contributions funding to other levels of government, community-led and not-for-profit organizations to respond to drug and substance use issues in Canada. Funding supports a wide range of evidence-informed and innovative problematic substance use prevention, harm reduction and treatment initiatives across Canada at the community, regional and national levels.

The City of Kelowna, through the work of the Social Development Department, is convening several collective impact and capacity building initiatives aiming to improve community wellness. During capacity building exercises with people with lived and living experience of past or current substance use

and/or homelessness (PWLLE), a vision for enhanced harm reduction, healing, and supports provided by peers emerged.

The PEOPLE Lived Experience Society was developed from this vision. Supported by Urban Matters CCC in its development, PEOPLE has recently been established as a social enterprise that to date has engaged two cohorts of a total of over 50 PWLLE individuals in a series of learning modules and has secured meaningful employment contracts over the past year. The City of Kelowna has been an integral project partner and investor in the development of PEOPLE, while Urban Matters has incubated and supported, and continues to support, PEOPLE's development into an independent enterprising non-profit organization.

**Discussion:**

The SUAP grant application, PEOPLE Peer Navigators and Capacity Building project, was developed in partnership with Urban Matters. The grant application approved by Health Canada stipulates that the City is the lead in the implementation of this collaborative project with the responsibility for the overall management and reporting of the project. The City's commitment is outlined in the Contribution Agreement with Health Canada attached to this report. The Agreement also outlines Health Canada's funding contribution which will require amendment to the 2020 Financial Plan.

The Health Canada Contribution Agreement identifies Urban Matters CCC as a partner with the City and specifies that Urban Matters will be responsible for executing the approved work program through an agreement between the two parties. Other key partners such as the Central Okanagan Journey Home Society, and PEOPLE will participate on a Project Team to assist in the planning and coordination of this initiative.

This goal of the PEOPLE Peer Navigators and Capacity Building Project is to develop and implement a peer navigators' program designed to support the training of PWLLE to participate in the delivery of services provided by local social serving organizations. The aim is to increase the participation of people with lived experience into supporting peers in their navigation of services. Through this project the capacity of local organizations to meaningfully integrate people with lived experience into their service delivery will be increased, along with the introduction of peer to peer Indigenous cultural teachings to support healing and wellness.

**Conclusion:**

The PEOPLE Peer Navigators and Capacity Building project responds to critical gaps identified by the local PWLLE with current or past substance use. A focus highlighted by PWLLE was the need for the organizations delivering harm reduction services to consider stigma reduction and dignity. Ideally, this will be achieved by peer navigators being embedded in all social service organizations and places where people are seeking help. This bold vision from PWLLE is supported by evidence demonstrating the value peers play in supporting positive healing experiences for individuals who use substances and/or are experiencing homelessness. The role of peers is also recognized in the Journey Home Strategy, with a key action in the implementation plan focusing on the introduction of peer support models.

The City and Urban Matters will work together to cultivate a broad network of partners to deliver this project, including the meaningful involvement of PWLLE through PEOPLE Employment Services programs. By deliberately collaborating across sectors and building capacity of PWLLE to innovate and transform harm reduction practices, this project's goal is to begin to address problematic stigma and loss of dignity that is preventing and/or creating barriers to people seeking supports.

**Internal Circulation:**

Divisional Director, Active Living & Culture  
Community Safety Director  
Sustainability Coordinator  
Communications Department Manager  
Partnership Manager  
Grants and Special Projects Manager  
Admin & Business Services Manager  
Financial Analyst  
Purchasing Manager

**Considerations applicable to this report:**

***Financial/Budgetary Considerations:***

The PEOPLE Peers Project has been approved for Health Canada’s SUAP funding over the next three years. Subject to the terms of the Contribution Agreement with Health Canada, the City can receive \$691,000 toward eligible expenditures over the term of the grant. Health Canada’s contribution will be paid as follows:

- In Fiscal Year 2020-2021 up to \$174,250
- In Fiscal Year 2021-2022 up to \$291,750
- In Fiscal Year 2022-2023 up to \$225,000

The resolution proposed in this report is that Council amend the 2020 budget to reflect the total amount of Health Canada’s financial commitment.

***Existing Policy:***

In reference to the City’s purchasing policy, the Purchasing Branch was consulted and provided the particulars and conditions of the Health Canada SUAP funding arrangement as it relates to the service provider selection. The Purchasing Branch, in consideration of those details and applicable regulations, determined a direct award selection was suitable and supported in this circumstance.

**Considerations not applicable to this report:**

***Legal/Statutory Authority***  
***Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements***  
***External Agency/Public Comments***  
***Communications Comments***

Submitted by: S. Wheeler, Social Development Manager

Approved for inclusion:



J. Gabriel, Divisional Director, Active Living & Culture

**Attachments:** Health Canada – Substance Use and Addictions Program – Contribution Agreement