

# Report to Council



**Date:** May 2, 2022

**To:** Council

**From:** City Manager

**Subject:** Union of BC Municipalities 2022 Community Excellence Awards Applications

**Department:** Partnership Office

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT Council supports the submissions of the following City projects for the 2022 Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Community Excellence Awards:

- Governance category: Kelowna 2040 (Official Community Plan and Transportation Master Plan)
- Asset Management category: Kelowna Water Integration Plan - Phase 1 - South East Kelowna
- Service Delivery category: Meet me on Bernard
- Sustainability category: Real-Time Flood Response EOC Dashboard and Water Level Data Modernization.

## **Purpose:**

To approve staff to apply to the 2022 UBCM Community Excellence Awards.

## **Background:**

The annual UBCM Community Excellence Awards recognize and celebrate member local governments that have implemented projects or programs that showcase outstanding initiatives. The awards are designed to profile innovation and unique approaches and serve to inspire other communities to adopt similar projects and programs in their own communities.

In the last ten years, the City of Kelowna received the award once in 2013 in the former Best Practices, General category for the *Reporting Problems on the Go* project. In 2019 the *Munson Pond Naturalization* project was a nominee in the Excellence in Sustainability category.

## **Discussion:**

Pursuing awards is an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the achievements by City teams that deliver on Council's priorities and support our vision of being a City of the Future. It also puts a spotlight on the innovation, service and leadership delivered by the City of Kelowna. In turn, receiving awards positions Kelowna as a desirable place to live, work, play and invest to the community, our residents, and senior levels of government. Below are the four proposed projects, identified by project leads, that exemplify excellence in each of the UBCM Community Excellence categories.

## **Excellence in Governance**

### **Kelowna 2040 (Official Community Plan and Transportation Master Plan)**

In this era of rapid growth and change, decisions must be guided by bold vision and clear strategy. Kelowna 2040 is comprised of the 2040 Official Community Plan (OCP) and the Transportation Master Plan (TMP). The delivery of these new strategies are major milestones and represent the beginning of a new and exciting period for Kelowna. These are critical strategies that will help Kelowna realize the community's vision of how Kelowna will not only grow in a way that withstands the coming changes but will flourish.

For the first time in the City's history the OCP and TMP have been developed in tandem and are mutually supportive of one another. As such, this provides a comprehensive vision and plan for Kelowna's growth and future for the next 20 years.

Through the coordination of land use, transportation, infrastructure planning efforts, and the feedback received from the community, Kelowna 2040 guides our city through a future that is rapidly changing, requiring new approaches to growth, resilience, and equity. Importantly, these strategies embed robust monitoring programs and implementation strategies to ensure that both stay relevant and responsive to dynamic conditions that are yet to come.

## **Excellence in Asset Management**

### **Kelowna Water Integration Plan - Phase 1 - South East Kelowna**

The first phase of the Kelowna Integrated Water Project separated agricultural and domestic water systems in Southeast Kelowna and provided a sustainable water supply to agricultural users in the City's South Mission. The result was clean drinking water supplied to over 2,000 households while meeting Interior Health's 2025 clean drinking water mandate almost 10 years earlier than planned in the area. Construction of the \$86M project began in 2018 and was completed in 2021.

The project benefits included:

- Reservoir storage for maximum daily flows and fire flow
- Backup water supply and power protection
- Protection against backflow protection from the non-potable agricultural system
- Continued access to the non-potable system for irrigation (for eligible properties)
- New pressure reduction, pipe supply and Dall Road Reservoir storage to improve supply and fire flow to Hall Road area
- Water conservation improvements, including leak detection and water measurement
- Improved fire protection and insurance premiums to some residents
- Innovative implementation of pressure reducing stations that eliminate confined spaces and make work safer
- Well trained operations and maintenance staff

## **Excellence in Service Delivery**

### **Meet me on Bernard**

In spring of 2020 in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic impacts on the local economy, the City of Kelowna closed four blocks of Bernard Avenue as part of the economic recovery tool to support local business and to increase the pedestrian realm, thereby allowing for expanded social distancing in the downtown core.

Following the success of the 2020 Bernard Avenue program, in 2021 the City of Kelowna worked collaboratively with the Meet me on Bernard Committee, comprised of the Downtown Kelowna Association and Tourism Kelowna on a plan to annually host Meet Me On Bernard, recognizing that open spaces are important for physical, mental, and social health, and have combined resources to deliver a concept that will enhance the vibrancy of our downtown core and have a positive impact for local businesses and the community for years to come.

## **Excellence in Sustainability**

### **Real-Time Flood Response**

(Emergency Operations Centre Dashboard and Water Level Data Modernization)

In 2017, Okanagan Lake reached its highest flood level ever recorded which resulted in the longest Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) activation in BC history at that time. Following this event, the City of Kelowna created a prediction model that provided the Central Okanagan EOC with an advanced warning tool for potential Okanagan Lake flood levels.

Data was consolidated and standardized from 24 different provincial and regional sources, including real-time and historic streamflow rates, lake levels, snow depths, precipitation, and temperature. The data is presented in a dashboard that monitors the near real-time situation for all lakes and creeks in the area that gives the City a head start on getting flood protection measures in place. The dashboard can reliably predict the daily lake level rise within 5 mm of what is actually occurring and is shared with our regional partners. Next steps are to use Microsoft Azure IoT Hub and Azure Stream Analytics to modernize our approach and to consider other environmental challenges including record breaking temperatures and wildfires.

### **Conclusion:**

With Council's approval, staff will submit applications for the UBCM 2022 Community Excellence Awards in the outlined categories. The application deadline is May 20, 2022. Award recipients will be announced during the 2022 UBCM Convention in September.

### **Internal Circulation:**

Policy and Planning  
Information Systems  
Partnership Office  
Infrastructure (Utility Planning)  
Corporate Strategic Services

### **Considerations not applicable to this report:**

*Legal/Statutory Authority:*

*Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:*

*Existing Policy:*

*Financial/Budgetary Considerations:*

*External Agency/Public Comments:*

*Communications Comments:*

Submitted by: A. Bazett, Intergovernmental Relations Manager

**Approved for inclusion:**



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cc:

R. McLean, Utility Planning Manager

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