

# Report to Council



**Date:** November 28, 2022  
**To:** Council  
**From:** City Manager  
**Subject:** 2022 Health Canada Substance Use and Addictions Program Funding  
**Department:** Active Living and Culture

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Active Living and Culture Division dated November 28, 2022 with respect to funding received under the Health Canada Substance Use and Addictions Program;

AND THAT Council approve the amendment of the 2022 Financial Plan to include the receipt of funds allocated as \$662,433.00

## **Purpose:**

To amend the 2022 Financial Plan to include the receipt of funds for the Substance Use and Addictions Program.

## **Background:**

Health Canada's Substance Use and Addictions Program (SUAP) provides grants and contributions funding to respond to drug and substance use health issues. This funding is provided to other levels of government, community-led and not-for-profit organizations in Canada. SUAP provides funding for a wide range of innovative and evidence-informed projects addressing problematic substance use prevention, harm reduction and treatment initiatives across the country.

The City of Kelowna has received \$662,433.00 in funding from the Government of Canada for the Kḱnḱxtəwīḱ "We walk hand in hand" Indigenous Harm Reduction and Structural Stigma Dialogue with the Healthcare Sector project.

## **Discussion:**

The Kḱnḱxtəwīḱ "We walk hand in hand" Indigenous Harm Reduction and Structural Stigma Dialogue with the Healthcare Sector program was developed in partnership with local Indigenous organizations and will roll out over the next two years. This funding will support a new program that seeks to grow cultural safety within harm reduction services, and reduce the stigma and racism faced by Indigenous peoples and other communities that are marginalized in Kelowna. The program will be delivered in partnership with Urban Matters CCC, the PEOPLE Lived Experience Society, the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society, and other local organizations.

Through Knknxtəwix̓, members of the local Indigenous community will share their knowledge, and advocate for and grow Indigenous cultural understanding within the healthcare sector, leading to more culturally-appropriate harm reduction, treatment and recovery services. The program aims to better equip the healthcare system to serve the needs of Indigenous peoples and other marginalized communities.

Knknxtəwix̓ will create an Indigenous Harm Reduction Team (IHRT), made up of a nurse, social worker, and Indigenous Peer Navigators. The IHRT will deliver harm reduction services, supplies and cultural support to people who use illicit substances. Knknxtəwix̓ will also pilot a substance use day program, with local Indigenous Elders, Peers and specialists contributing to its Indigenous-informed substance use recovery curriculum.

With the intent of acting as a catalyst for system change this is the second SUAP grant the City of Kelowna has successfully received. The first SUAP grant was for the PEOPLE Peer Navigators and Capacity Building project to build capacity of people with lived and living experience of past or current substance use through harm reduction and healing. This project involved training Peer Navigators to create pathways of access for people struggling with substance use and other social issues, as well as to reduce stigma relating to substance use. Over the course of this project Peer Navigators have been embedded into nine locations including the Parkinson Recreation Centre, Kelowna Regional Library (Downtown and Rutland branches), Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society, Metro Community, Metis Community Association, and PEOPLE's Connect (2 locations). This three-year project will be complete by March 31, 2023.

#### **Conclusion:**

In collaboration with key community partners, the City will implement the Knknxtəwix̓ "We walk hand in hand" Indigenous Harm Reduction and Structural Stigma Dialogue with the Healthcare Sector project. This project will be complete by March 31, 2024.

#### **Internal Circulation:**

Grants & Special Projects Manager  
Financial Services  
Communications

#### **Considerations applicable to this report:**

##### ***Financial/Budgetary Considerations:***

The Financial Plan Amendment Policy (FIN-032) requires Council approval, through a Report to Council, for amendments greater than \$200,000 prior to Financial Plan amendments being made.

The Knknxtəwix̓ "We walk hand in hand" Indigenous Harm Reduction and Structural Dialogue with the Healthcare Sector project has been approved for Health Canada's SUAP funding for eighteen months. Subject to the Agreement with Health Canada, the City will receive up to \$662,433 in funding for this initiative:

- In Fiscal Year 2022-2023 up to \$487,396
- In Fiscal Year 2023=2024 up to \$175,037

Submitted by: S. Wheeler, Social Development Manager

**Approved for inclusion:** J. Gabriel, Divisional Director, Active Living & Culture

cc:  
Grants & Special Projects Manager