

Report to Council



Date: April 15, 2024
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: Regional Community to Community Grant
Department: Partnerships Office

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Partnerships Office dated April 15, 2024 with respect to the Regional Community to Community Grant;

AND THAT Council directs staff to apply for grant funding to the Regional Community to Community program, through Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM);

AND THAT Council authorizes staff to execute all documents necessary to complete and manage the grant.

Purpose:

To inform Council of the Regional Community to Community Grant, and to receive support to apply for the grant funding.

Background:

The Regional Community to Community (C2C) grant program is a part of the Local Government Program Services, a suite of funding programs from the Province of BC, administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). The Regional C2C Grant which is available to up to \$20,000, intends to support increased understanding and improved overall relations between First Nations and local governments through forum events and to support more formal relationships such as the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Discussion:

The City of Kelowna (City) alongside Westbank First Nation (WFN) have initiated discussions to strengthen the first nation-local government relationship and collaboration as a path to the future for shared projects and initiatives. In alignment with the funding guidelines and objectives, the project will include two main components:

1. A collaborative forum for dialogue, relationship building and shared understanding; and
2. Building on the forum discussions, the intention is to develop an MOU and a subsequent signing ceremony.

A third-party consultant will be hired to facilitate the discussions and lead the MOU development. This project will be conducted in collaboration with WFN.

The forum will bring together elected officials and senior staff from both WFN and the City. The intent of the forum is to be a meaningful gathering to build a shared understanding, strengthen relationships, and in turn, support the advancement of local truth and reconciliation efforts.

The development of the MOU will take an intentional, collaborative approach between the City and WFN. The intent of the MOU is to establish a path forward for future partnerships, community collaboration, and improved cooperative efforts. The grant requires the project to be complete within 12 months.

Staff from the City and WFN have been working together to develop the application and required supporting materials. WFN has provided a letter of support to the project confirming their desire to participate in the process and strengthen the relationship between our organizations.

Conclusion:

The City actively pursues grants to reduce municipal taxation and to leverage City funding for infrastructure, services, and programs to support Council, corporate and community priorities.

This funding opportunity will support the strengthening of relationships between the City and Westbank First Nation, as well as set a path forward for continuing to work together.

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Considerations applicable to this report:

Consultation and Engagement:

Staff have been working collaboratively with Westbank First Nation on completing the application and supporting documents for the grant submission. Chief Louie from Westbank First Nation has submitted a letter of support indicating their agreement to participate in this process.

Existing Policy:

- Imagine Kelowna Vision: Principle 1: Collaboration
- Official Community Plan 2040: Equitable community, Heritage
- Statement of Political Relationship (2000)

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

Submitted by: N. Cantley, Partnerships Coordinator

Approved for inclusion: M. Kam, Acting Partnership Office Director