



COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

Date: October 22, 2024

From: Ron Bowles, Chief Administrative Officer

Subject: **Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training 2024 Grant Application**

Report Prepared by: Jason Brolund, Fire Chief

RECOMMENDATION to Consider and Resolve:

THAT Council support the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) grant application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) for Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training 2024 intake for the development and delivery Emergency Operations Center staff training in 2025;

AND THAT the RDCO be authorized to apply for, receive and manage the grant funding on behalf of the City of West Kelowna.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Foster Safety and Well-Being – We will pursue through direct action, advocacy, and collaboration with local and regional service providers, investments in community health, needs-based housing, emergency preparedness, policing, and other services that foster safety and well-being in West Kelowna.

BACKGROUND

The Union of British Columbia Municipalities - Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (UBCM-CEPF) is a suite of funding programs intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments, First Nations, and communities in responding to various emergencies. This funding is provided by the Province of British Columbia and is administered by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM).

The Regional District of the Central Okanagan (RDCO) will be making an application for Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training stream for the 2024 intake. If awarded, the pooled funding will support the development and delivery of training for staff

from all regional Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) partners to enhance cultural safety and humility in the delivery of local emergency management programs and services.

DISCUSSION

Eligible activities under the grant stream include cultural safety and humility training, adapting emergency management tools to be inclusive of Indigenous peoples, and activities related to partnering with and aiding, Indigenous communities during emergency mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

The project will establish a comprehensive, cooperative, and regional approach to Indigenous cultural safety and humility by engaging multiple communities within the region and aligning their emergency management practices with Syilx cultural values. This unified approach ensures consistent training and fosters strong relationships across local jurisdictions and Indigenous partners.

Regional benefits include improved cultural competency, stronger partnerships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous emergency management/EOC teams, and more culturally informed, effective emergency response and recovery efforts across the region. This collective approach maximizes resource sharing and collaboration.

This application supports compliance with the new British Columbia Disaster and Emergency Response Act which was passed into force by the Province of British Columbia in November of 2023. This application is also supports compliance with the RDCO Emergency Management Program Bylaw 1444, 2019 which was last updated in 2019.

If the RDCO application to the UBCM-CEPF is successful, City of West Kelowna staff who work in the RDCO EOC will be provided an opportunity to participate in Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The RDCO application will combine the maximum \$40,000 per local government in 2025. The total value of the RDCO application to the UBCM-CEPF will not exceed \$240,000. This estimated total is derived from RDCO Regional Emergency Program staff's financial analysis of eligible grant amounts for the Westbank First Nation, District of Peachland, City of West Kelowna, Regional District of the Central Okanagan, City of Kelowna and District of Lake Country. Combining and coordinating efforts will optimize the impact of EOC staff training.

REVIEWED BY

Warren Everton, Chief Financial Officer

Trevor Seibel, Deputy CAO/Deputy Corporate Officer

APPROVED FOR THE AGENDA BY

Ron Bowles, Chief Administrative Officer

PowerPoint: Yes No