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DATE: March 5, 2020  
TO: Paul Gipps, CAO  
FROM: Jason Luciw, Communications Supervisor  
RE: Evacuation Route Planning Grant

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**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

**THAT** Council support an application to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Evacuation Route Planning Funding Stream, seeking 100% funding, to a maximum of \$25,000, to identify emergency egress options; and,

**THAT** Council amend the 2020 to 2024 Financial Plan as required in the event of a successful application; and,

**THAT** Council authorize the Mayor and Corporate Officer to execute the contribution agreement for a successful application.

**RATIONALE:**

British Columbia's Community Emergency Preparedness program offers Evacuation Route Planning funding as a means of supporting communities that need to plan for safe and effective emergency egresses.

**BACKGROUND:**

Effective evacuation routes permit the movement of people, pets, livestock and personal property from an area of imminent or active danger to a safe location. Egresses typically lead people safely and effectively out of an area entirely; however, the egress may lead to a haven or safe coordinating area within the neighbourhood itself.

The City of West Kelowna has experienced three interface fires requiring evacuations since incorporation in 2007, including Glenrosa and Rose Valley in 2009, Seclusion Bay in 2010 and Smith Creek in 2014. On occasion, other nearby wildfires have placed neighbourhoods under watch or alert.

Many West Kelowna neighbourhoods like Gellatly, Lakeview Heights, Rose Valley, Shannon Lake, Smith Creek and West Kelowna Estates have two or more effective and safe egresses.

In neighbourhoods such as Seclusion Bay with steep topography, a small population and one egress, the lakeshore provides a haven until evacuation by water can occur. In addition, Casa Loma also has one established egress via Campbell Road.

In Glenrosa, a largely populated neighbourhood with two egresses in relatively the same direction, the City has worked with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Resource Development to provide signage and safe passage via Jackpine and Bear/Sunset Main Forest Service Roads.

The Evacuation Route Planning Program would provide an effective means for the City to conduct a study, consult with residents and complete a plan for an additional safe and effective alternative access.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The Evacuation Route Planning Program offers up to \$25,000 in funding for communities looking to create an emergency egress plan. If successful, the grant would cover 100% of the external consulting costs required to conduct the planning exercise. The city can cover additional in-kind staff costs through the existing budget as part of operational workflows.

#### REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

Warren Everton, Director of Finance/CFO  
Sandy Webster, Director of Corporate Initiatives  
Tracey Batten, Deputy CAO/Corporate Officer  
Paul Gipps, CAO

Powerpoint: No  
Attachments: No