



COUNCIL REPORT

To: Paul Gipps, CAO

Date: June 22, 2021

From: Stirling Scory, Planner II

File No: P21-02

Subject: **P21-02 Replacement CARIP Program Request**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council endorse the following resolution “The City of West Kelowna calls for the need of a swift replacement to the CARIP program, one that provides consistent, non-application based funding to allow the City of West Kelowna and other municipalities to continue their work and progress towards meeting the requirements of the BC Climate Action Charter”; and

THAT Council direct staff to share this resolution with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) prior to June 30, 2021 for consideration.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Foster Safety and Well-Being – Pursue through direct action, advocacy, and partnerships with governments and local service providers to further advance the health of our community.

BACKGROUND

On May 11, 2021, the Deputy Minister, and Assistant Deputy Minister for the Local Government Division of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs called a meeting with all Municipal and Regional District Chief Administrative Officers (CAO) to announce that the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) would be ending. A follow-up e-mail was provided that included information that was shared at the meeting (Attachment 1).

The District of Saanich has provided a report (see Attachment 1) and a letter, detailing the impact of cancelling the program and significance to both Saanich and the other participating local governments. Other local governments have also provided letters and proposed resolutions to the UBCM echoing their concerns to the end of the program, and the need to have a replacement for the future.

DISCUSSION

The Loss of Funding

The City of West Kelowna has participated in the CARIP program since 2010 and has received a total of \$494,945. CARIP has provided a consistent source of funding, and the lack of a clear replacement program provides uncertainty for the future. The potential that a new program may shift to a competitive applications based funding/grant program would likely require significant staff time, and without any guarantee of being successful in getting funding can be a large investment of resources with no return.

The Loss of Reporting and Data

The CARIP program has provided a consistent climate reporting template for all BC signatory governments to follow, and represents over a decade of publicly available data on municipal climate action. During that time many local governments, including West Kelowna have allocated significant staff resources and time to completing these reports to move forward with the Charter commitments. Should a future program not incorporate the reporting metrics and methodology used under CARIP, the collection and review of future data under different reporting requirements may not accurately detail data trends observed to date.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

For the 2020 reporting year, the City of West Kelowna has applied through CARIP for a total of \$69,539. The lack of program for the future results in the net loss of this money and any future monies that may be collected through the CARIP grant. The Province has allocated \$11,000,000 for the 2021 budget to assist local governments in their pursuit of compact, energy-efficient communities that support local government's Charter commitments. 187 of 190 municipalities have become signatories to the Charter, so many will be competing for this funding, and because this funding is conditional, West Kelowna is not guaranteed a funding source even if they apply.

CONCLUSION

CARIP has played an important role for the City of West Kelowna in understanding and committing to the BC Climate Action Charter. The loss of this program and the lack of a clear plan forward provides challenges for West Kelowna, and other municipalities. Should Council consider adopting the recommended motions, this would provide support for other municipalities in a call to action to request that a replacement program that provides consistent, non-application based funding for West Kelowna and other municipalities so that they may continue to deliver on their commitments of the BC Climate Action Charter.

Alternate Motion:

THAT Council does not endorse the following resolution “The City of West Kelowna calls for the need of a swift replacement to the CARIP program, one that provides consistent, non-application based funding to allow the City of West Kelowna and other municipalities to continue their work and progress towards meeting the requirements of the BC Climate Action Charter”; and

THAT Council does not direct staff to share this resolution with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) prior to June 30, 2021; and

THAT Council provide an alternative resolution for consideration by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities.

REVIEWED BY

Brent Magnan, Planning Manager

Mark Koch, Director of Development Services

Shelley Schnitzler, Legislative Services Manager/Corporate Officer

APPROVED FOR THE AGENDA BY

Paul Gipps, CAO

Powerpoint: Yes ☐ No ☒

Attachments:

1. Email package from the District of Saanich