

DATE: October 15, 2020**FILE:** 1700-02 / 2020/ 512**TO:** Chair and Directors
Regional District Board**FROM:** Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative OfficerSupported by Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer*R. Dyson***RE: Community Wellness Grant Budget Amendment (Regional Growth Strategy)****Purpose**

To recommend amendment of the 2020 financial plan for the Regional Growth Strategy service (function 512) to include a \$50,000 Island Health Community Wellness grant in support of the regional Airshed Protection project.

Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:

THAT the 2020-2024 financial plan and capital expenditure program for the Regional Growth Strategy service (function 512) be amended by \$50,000 to incorporate receipt of an Island Health Community Wellness grant;

AND FURTHER THAT \$30,000 of the grant amount be directed to “other professional fees” to support the work of the Airshed Roundtable including community education initiatives;

AND FINALLY THAT \$20,000 of the grant amount be directed to “education programs public” for the provision of rebates through the 2021 Wood Smoke Reduction Program to incentivize the exchange of wood burning appliances for cleaner heat sources, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant.

Executive Summary

- The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) has received \$50,000 from Island Health as a Community Wellness grant.
- The grant is to be used in 2020-21 in support of the CVRD’s efforts to improve local air quality and specifically, the work of the Airshed Roundtable, including public education initiatives (e.g. “smart burn” techniques, links between particulate matter and public health).
- The CVRD Board has included \$30,000 in the 2020 financial plan (as well as contributions of \$30,000 in 2021 and 2022) for the air quality improvement strategic priority: this grant is intended to supplement that contribution and allow for enhanced public outreach and education.
- The money will also be used for the provision of financial incentives to encourage replacement of wood burning appliances with cleaner home heating sources (i.e. rebates under the CVRD’s 2021 Wood Smoke Reduction program). This grant will supplement any funds that the CVRD may receive from the Ministry of Environment (MOE)/BC Lung Association for the 2021 Wood Smoke Reduction program.
- Staff have made an application to the MOE/BC Lung Association for funding to continue the Wood Smoke Reduction program in 2021. K’ómoks First Nation has joined as a partner in the proposed 2021 program. To date, 27 households have received a rebate under the CVRD’s 2020 program.

Prepared by:

A. Mullaly

Alana Mullaly, RPP, MCIP
Senior Manager of Sustainability and
Regional Growth Strategy

Concurrence:

S. Smith

Scott Smith, RPP, MCIP
General Manager of Planning and
Development Services Branch

Government Partners and Stakeholder Distribution (Upon Agenda Publication)

Village of Cumberland	✓
Town of Comox	✓
City of Courtenay	✓