

**DAT** March 27, 2020**FILE:** 1850-20/2020**TO:** Chair and Directors  
Regional District Board**FROM:** Russell Dyson  
Chief Administrative OfficerSupported by Russell Dyson  
Chief Administrative Officer**R. Dyson****RE: Community Funding for COVID-19 Response****Purpose**

To describe a process for administering the grant-in-aid (GIA) and other financial resources to respond to COVID-19 within the Comox Valley.

**Recommendations from the Chief Administrative Officer:**

1. THAT the Grants-in-Aid listed on Schedule A of the report dated March 27, 2020 payable from the respective area(s) indicated, be approved and paid as soon as possible;

AND FURTHER THAT the remainder of grants-in-aid applications and any additional COVID-19 response grant-in-aid awards be considered at subsequent meetings, with specific direction provided by individual Electoral Area Director.

2. THAT the \$93,179 under function #111 allocated for emergency financial assistance to community / social support agencies be distributed as follows:
  - \$47,000 directed to the Comox Valley Community Foundation for disbursement through its COVID-19 Emergency Response Grants program
  - \$23,000 directed to the Comox Valley Community Health Network for disbursement through its existing community connections and
  - \$23,179 directed to the Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness for disbursement through its existing community connections

AND FURTHER THAT each group be requested to disburse funds in a manner that supports the homeless and promotes food security during the COVID-19 pandemic;

AND FINALLY THAT each group be required to provide reporting measures on the purpose and effect of each disbursement.

**Executive Summary**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) Board approved funding allocations at its March 19, 2020 meeting by way of increases to the 2020 tax requisitions for the five Electoral Areas GIA services, totalling \$77,121, in the 2020 -2024 adopted financial plan and also through the repurposing on an interim basis of general administration surplus funds in the amount of \$93,179. This report describes a general process that would be followed to disburse said funds into the community in a timely manner.

- Primary focus for the COVID-19 specific funding will be to support and enhance food security and homelessness response;
- Regular GIA criteria for funding disbursement will be followed, including that funds can only be provided to non-profit or charitable community organizations;
- Existing GIA applicants have been reviewed with specific attention to those agencies aligning efforts towards COVID-19 response as well as those whose activities, projects,

events, etc. have been impacted by COVID-19 and will either be curtailed or not proceed (the list of organizations in Schedule A of this report are identified, in part, as providing community response to the COVID-19 pandemic);

- Any additional COVID-19 response applications can be considered at subsequent Board meetings, with specific direction provided by individual Electoral Area Directors;
- The remainder of GIA applications would be considered at the May Board meeting, payable after August 1, 2020;
- Positive and purposeful gains can be had where the CVRD partners with existing agencies and structures to disburse the function #111 funds in the community to support the homeless and provide for food security, rather than the CVRD conducting its own call for expressions of interest, adjudication and disbursement process function #111 funds;
  - o The Comox Valley Community Foundation has recently launched a “COVID-19 Emergency Response Grants” program that will direct funds to local charities and not-for-profits “to support organizations focused on child welfare in the broadest sense, and religious organizations/churches providing services to our community”;
  - o Both the Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness and the Comox Valley Community Health Network have deep connections to many service organizations that support the homeless and assist with providing for food security; both organizations also have existing fund disbursement programs and are currently identifying community and not-for-profit organizations as potential fund recipients.
  - o Staff recommend the disbursement of function #111 as noted in the recommendation, though the Board may opt for different amounts to each organization or direct staff to take a different approach.
  - o Each organization that receives CVRD funding for disbursement to community organizations would be expected to direct those funds in a manner that supports the homeless and promotes food security during the COVID-19 pandemic and also be required to provide reporting measures on the purpose and effect of each disbursement.

Prepared by:

Concurrence:

***J. Warren***

James Warren  
General Manager of Corporate Services

Kevin Douville  
Manager of Financial Planning

#### **Government Partners and Stakeholder Distribution (Upon Agenda Publication)**

Comox Valley Community Foundation	X
Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness	X
Comox Valley Community Health Network	X

Attachment: Schedule A Grant-in-Aids

# SCHEDULE A

2020 Grants in Aid - payable as soon as possible.

Organization	Purpose	Denman Island Paid From Function No. 123	Hornby Island Paid From Function No. 124	Electoral Area A Paid from Function No. 120	Electoral Area B Paid from Function No. 121	Electoral Area C Paid from Function No. 122	Total Funds Granted
Denman Community Land Trust Association	to assist with a BC Land Surveyor for zoning requirements, land purchase to secure affordable housing	3,500.00					3,500.00
Denman Island Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program Organization	to assist with the purchase of two way radios and other emergency materials	1,800.00					1,800.00
Denman Island Preschool Society - Blackberry Lane Children's Centre	to assist with operating expenses	2,000.00					2,000.00
Fanny Bay Community Association	to assist with program delivery and operating expenses			3,000.00			3,000.00
Fanny Bay Seniors Society	to assist with facility improvements and maintenance costs			3,000.00			3,000.00
Hornby Island Arts Council	to assist with operating expenses		5,000.00				5,000.00
Hornby Island Daycare Society	to assist with upgrading the outdoor learning area		3,000.00				3,000.00
Hornby Island Educational Society	to assist with kitchen equipment upgrades		4,000.00				4,000.00
LUSH Valley Food Action Society	to assist with some costs of coordinating and facilitating the 2020/21 activities of the Comox Valley Food Policy Council			2,500.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	12,500.00
Royston Community Club and Recreation Commission	to assist with the continued restoration general building maintenance			5,000.00			5,000.00
Ships Point Volunteer Firefighters Association	to assist train first responders and purchase equipment for volunteer fire fighters			300.00			300.00
Union Bay Community Club and Recreation Association	to assist with kitchen improvements, emergency door replacement, and finalize energy audit and sloped access ramp			12,000.00			12,000.00