

DATE: June 6, 2019**FILE:** 0230-20 / UBCM
0485-20 / KFN**TO:** Chair and Directors
Committee of the WholeSupported by Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer**FROM:** Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer*R. Dyson***RE: 2019 Urban Communities Partnering for Reconciliation**

Purpose

To seek board support for a proposed project in partnership with the Wachiay Friendship Centre under the Urban Communities Partnering for Reconciliation (UCPR) grant funding program.

Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:

THAT the Comox Valley Regional District Board authorize staff to make an application to the Union of BC Municipalities' Urban Communities Partnering for Reconciliation funding program, with the Comox Valley Regional District serving as the primary applicant and grant manager to organize a youth cultural camp in partnership with the Wachiay Friendship Centre.

Executive Summary

- The province in partnership with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) have created a pilot program to support local governments and Indigenous organizations in developing opportunities for dialogue and relationship building to advance reconciliation efforts.
- In order to complete the application, a board resolution confirming support for the proposed activity and willingness for the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) to provide overall grant management is required.
- The grant program provides up to a maximum of \$10,000 with 100 per cent funding available to cover eligible costs.
- Staff is working with the Wachiay Friendship Centre to develop a cultural camp for Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth in the Comox Valley for summer registration in 2020. The camp will incorporate Indigenous cultural activities such as storytelling, talking circles and learning from elders and community leaders about Indigenous culture and traditions.
- This is a good opportunity for the CVRD to further develop a relationship with Wachiay, expand cultural offerings, and take action on reconciliation with First Nations peoples.

Prepared by:

R. Holme

Robyn Holme, MCIP, RPP
Long Range Planner

Concurrence:

A. Mullaly

Alana Mullaly, MCIP, RPP
Senior Manager of Planning
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Concurrence:

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Stakeholder Distribution (Upon Agenda Publication)

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Wachiay Friendship Centre | ✓ |
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Background/Current Situation

The Off-Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan (ORAAP) was created to improve the socio-economic outcomes for British Columbia’s urban Indigenous communities (i.e. Indigenous citizens who do not live on a reserve) by improving education and job training, creating healthier communities and strengthening cultures and traditions. In response to ORAAP and a need for increased engagement between local governments and urban Indigenous people, the UCPR pilot funding program was created to support Indigenous people’s right to cultural self-determination and strengthen the broader public’s understanding of reconciliation as a key to influence positive change and the lives of Indigenous peoples.

Administered through UBCM, the UCPR supports events and activities that provide opportunities that will advance tangible outcomes in the improved cultural awareness of participants. Funding is available to eligible Indigenous organizations and local governments who want to create these opportunities for greater cultural awareness in the community.

The program is based on the recognition that relationships play an important part in reconciliation and that collaboration between Indigenous peoples and the non-Indigenous public will strengthen these relationships. Staff recommends that CVRD partner with the Wachiay Friendship Centre (an eligible applicant) to offer a cultural camp for youth in the Comox Valley beginning in summer 2020. The proposed youth camp will provide an opportunity for dialogue in a safe place for learning and relationship building for Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth. Through storytelling and talking circles with elders, for example, camp participants will explore the shared history of Indigenous peoples in the Comox Valley. Meaningful engagement can help foster insight into how past experiences and practices relate to current realities and begin a shared commitment to putting reconciliation into action.

Policy Analysis

In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) released its 94 calls to action directed to all levels of government. The UCPR pilot program is an important tool in advancing the TRC calls to action, specifically call No. 57:

“To provide education to public servants on the history of aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations’ Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, treaties and aboriginal rights, Indigenous law and Aboriginal-Crown relations. This will require skill-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights and anti-racism”.

Although not specifically directed to local governments, there are a number of calls that speak to promotion of cultural understanding, language and redressing the legacy of colonialism: the proposed youth camp will be designed in the spirit of these calls to action.

Options

The board has the following options:

1. Authorize CVRD staff to proceed with organizing the UCPR proposed project, in partnership with the Wachiay Friendship Centre.
2. Direct staff not to proceed with the proposed project.

Staff recommends option 1.

Financial Factors

Maximum funding under UBCM's grant program is \$10,000 with 100 per cent funding available to cover the cost of eligible expenses. Staff have submitted a detailed proposed budget as part of the application to UBCM (Appendix A). As the primary applicant and grant manager, the CVRD is responsible for completion of the project as approved and for meeting reporting requirements.

Legal Factors

UBCM grant funding requires a final report to be submitted to UBCM upon completion of the project. Note that the project must be completed within one year from the date of the grant approval.

Regional Growth Strategy Implications

The proposed project is consistent with the intent of the Regional Growth Strategy, specifically supporting Policy 7B-4 which encourages collaboration among planners, recreation providers, public health professionals and First Nations to address health, wellness and safety concerns among First Nations citizens

Intergovernmental Factors

CVRD staff proposes a partnership with the Wachiay Friendship Centre to submit an application for the proposed project. UBCM requires written confirmation of partners as part of the application (Appendix B). Wachiay will design and approve the camp content.

Through the ORAAP, the province acknowledges the importance of off-reserve and urban aboriginal populations in BC. The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres signed the ORAAP Protocol Agreement in 2014, which provides the overarching key principles for the UCPR grant funding program including education and training, capacity building, cultural awareness, collaboration, relationships and youth and elders. The proposed project aligns with the intent and objectives of the UCPR pilot program.

Interdepartmental Involvement

This initiative is being led by the planning and development services branch with support from community services and financial services branches.

Citizen/Public Relations

If the board supports staff's recommendation, planning staff will work with communications staff to coordinate a media release.

Attachments: Appendix A – "UCPR Application to UBCM"
Appendix B – "Wachiay Friendship Centre Letter of Support"

Urban Communities Partnering for Reconciliation 2019 Application Form

Please complete and return this form by May 24, 2019. All questions are required to be answered by typing directly in this form. If you have any questions, contact lgps@ubcm.ca or 250 356-5193.

| SECTION 1: Applicant Information | AP- <i>(for administrative use only)</i> |
|---|--|
| Local Government or Indigenous Society: Comox Valley Regional District | <u>Complete Mailing Address:</u> 600 Comox Road, Courtenay, BC V9N 3P6 |
| Contact Person*: Robyn Holme | Position: Long Range Planner |
| Phone: 250-334-6076 | E-mail: rholme@comoxvalleyrd.ca |

* Contact person must be an authorized representative of the applicant

| SECTION 2: Event or Project Information |
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| <p>1. Date(s) of proposed event(s) or activities Summer 2020 (July/August)</p> |
| <p>2. a) Proposed participants. Refer to Section 3 of the Program & Application Guide. Attach an additional page if required.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indigenous societies: Wachiay Friendship Centre</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local government(s): Comox Valley Regional District</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> First Nation(s):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other proposed participants:</p> <p>b) Confirmation of attendance from proposed participants</p> <p>Please <u>attach</u> written confirmation from each invited local government and/or eligible Indigenous society that elected officials and/or senior staff have agreed to attend and participate in the proposed event or activity. Confirmation can be in the form of a letter or e-mail. Written confirmations can be submitted after the application, but are required for grant approval.</p> |

- 3. Description of proposed events and activities.** Please refer to Section 4 of the Program & Application Guide. Provide a description of the proposed events or activities, including proposed format, topics, speakers, etc. If more than one event is proposed, please include a rationale for multiple events and a description of each.

Through the recreation department at the CVRD, staff propose developing a culture camp for youth in the Comox Valley for summer registration in 2020. Working with the Wachiay Friendship Centre, staff would focus on incorporating cultural elements and language into the camp programming. Camp participants would gain greater cultural awareness and sense of identity and connection to land through activities such as story telling, arts and crafts, walking, hiking, talking circles and exploring Indigenous worldviews and language. The camp would be a place where Elders and participants build relationships, enjoy cultural activities and learn together.

- 4. UCPR program objectives.** The objectives of the UCPR pilot program are identified in Sections 1 and 4 of the Program & Application Guide. Please describe how your events or activities will meet these objectives.

To strengthen the public's understanding of reconciliation by raising the awareness of Indigenous cultural identity.

The camp will provide an opportunity for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth to learn about Indigenous culture and history. Through activities such as talking circles and story telling, camp participants will learn about ancestral teachings and traditions and discover the importance of the connection to the land.

To create opportunities for in-person dialogue and relationship building to advance future projects

The pilot program provides an opportunity for the Comox Valley Regional District to partner with the Wachiay Friendship Centre on developing a culture camp for youth . In turn, both organization will learn more about the role and services of local government and urban Aboriginal organizations (Friendship Centres) which will help to identify other collaborative reconciliation projects, activities and events now and in the future.

- 5. Intended outcomes and deliverables.** Please describe the specific outcomes and deliverables that your event or activities will work towards:

The proposed culture camp would increase the engagement between the CVRD and urban Indigenous people by developing an activity/program with the Wachiay Friendship Centre. This partnership will promote ongoing dialogue between the two organizations, raise awareness about the services that Wachiay Friendship Centre provides to Indigenous peoples and the challenges that face urban Aboriginal peoples in the Comox Valley. This project will raise cultural awareness within the CVRD (the organization) but also within the broader community. Also this project aligns with other reconciliation initiatives at the CVRD such as cultural competency training and community-to-community forums. The camp hopes to create a positive learning environment for Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants that will promote self esteem, leadership and social skills.

6. Demonstrated understanding of the relationship history between the urban Indigenous community and the local government. Please describe the historic and current relationship between urban Indigenous peoples and/or agencies and the local government in your community.

Historically, Wachiay Friendship Centre and the Comox Valley Regional District have not partnered on projects. However, through the CVRD's Homelessness Support Service, funding was allocated to a Wachiay Friendship Centre's housing project. At this time, the CVRD is actively seeking opportunities to engage and partner with Indigenous organizations in order to advance reconciliation and increase cultural awareness in the community and also within the corporation.

7. Partnership and demonstrated community support. Please list all partners that will support the proposed activities (e.g. local First Nations, community service organizations, other local governments, etc.) and indicate the specific role they will play.

Comox Valley Regional District
Wachiay Friendship Centre

8. Additional information. Please share any other information you think may help support your submission.

The CVRD has decided to focus on developing a program targeted towards the youth, as nearly 50% of the off-reserve Aboriginal population is under the age of 25. Engaging with youth addresses a number of the key goals identified in the ORAAP. We hope this program will support the Comox Valley's off-reserve Aboriginal peoples in skill development and cultural awareness while also working towards ORAAP's goals and plan.

SECTION 3: Required Attachments

All applicants are required to submit:

- Detailed project budget
- Written confirmation of partners
- Optional: Up to 3 letters of support from local organizations or agencies

Local government applicants must submit:

- Council or Board resolution indicating support for the current proposed activities and willingness to provide overall grant management

Indigenous society applicants must submit:

- Board of Directors motion indicating support for the current proposed activities and willingness to provide overall grant management
- Current Certificate of Good Standing


SECTION 4: Signature

Applications are required to be signed by an authorized representative of the applicant.
Please note all application materials will be shared with the Province.

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, all information is accurate.

Name: Robyn Holme

Title: Long Range Planner

Signature: 

Date: May 15, 2019



WACHIAY FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

May 17, 2019

Comox Valley Regional District
600 Comox Road
Courtenay, BC, V9N 3P6

Delivered by email

Re: Urban Communities Partnering for Reconciliation (UCPR)

This letter is to confirm that Wachiay Friendship Centre Society is pleased to partner with the Comox Valley Regional District in their UCPR application.

We strongly support the intent of UCPR to create opportunities for in- person dialogue and relationship building which can advance collaborative reconciliation plans, protocols, agreements or future projects.

Wachiay Friendship Centre was founded in Courtenay, BC in 1995. Wachiay provides services to the Indigenous and Non- Indigenous Comox Valley community. Further info is available at: www.wachiay.org

In friendship,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael Colclough'.

Michael Colclough
Executive Director

Our Mission

To build a strong community rooted in the philosophy and cultures of our peoples.

1625 McPhee Avenue, Courtenay, BC, V9N 3A6
Phone (250)338-7793 Fax (250)338-7287 email: michael@wachiay.com