

**DATE:** September 7, 2018

**FILE:** 5280-01

**TO:** Chair and Directors  
Committee of the Whole

Supported by Russell Dyson  
Chief Administrative Officer

**FROM:** Russell Dyson  
Chief Administrative Officer

*R. Dyson*

**RE: Wood Stove Exchange Program – 2019 Funding Application**

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### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to recommend application to the provincial wood stove exchange program for 2019 funding.

### **Recommendations from the Chief Administrative Officer:**

THAT the Comox Valley Regional District approve the application process for funding to continue the wood-stove exchange program in the Comox Valley Regional District;

AND FURTHER THAT staff submit an application for up to \$20,000.00 to the provincial wood stove exchange program;

AND FINALLY THAT the wood stove exchange program be continued in 2019, including additional incentives for cleaner heating sources, subject to funding being received from the provincial wood stove exchange program.

### **Executive Summary**

The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) has provided the wood stove exchange program since early 2016, with funding from the Province of BC through the BC Lung Association. In 2017, the CVRD board approved the use of an Island Health Community Wellness grant for air quality related initiatives, including top-up rebates for exchanges from wood stoves to cleaner heating sources. Some wood stove exchange program highlights are identified below:

- Tracking numbers have been provided to 100 applicants, of a total of 125 that are available.
- Rebates have been issued or approved for 77 of these applicants.
- With the additional funding added in 2017 for switch to cleaner heating sources, 17 tracking numbers have been issued for natural gas stoves, pellet stoves or heat pumps.
- Community outreach activities in 2018 have included presence at a variety of community events and locations, an online home heating/air quality survey, and distribution of air quality brochures in identified “hot-spot” neighborhoods.
- The next wood stove exchange/air quality outreach event will be at the Comox Valley Fall 2018 Home Expo, September 21-23 at the Comox Recreation Centre.

The Province of BC has advised that there is funding available, on an application basis, to continue the wood stove exchange program into 2019, with an application deadline of October 1, 2018. In order to maintain the provincial contribution to the local wood stove exchange program in 2019, an application for continued funding is suggested. For reference, in 2017, an amount of \$20,000 was requested, and \$19,000 was awarded. Continued provincial funding would leverage the approved

CVRD top up funding, resulting in the best possible incentive level to those participants switching from wood stoves to cleaner heating sources.

Staff will bring a subsequent report to the board in early 2019 with the results of the funding application, as well as an update on air quality initiatives planned and underway.

Prepared by:

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Concurrence:

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