

**DATE:** September 10, 2020

**FILE:** 8020-02

**TO:** Chair and Members  
Comox Valley Sports Centre Commission

**FROM:** Russell Dyson  
Chief Administrative Officer

Supported by Russell Dyson  
Chief Administrative Officer

***R. DYSON***

**RE:** Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – British Columbia Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure - Grant Opportunity to Retrofit Comox Valley Sports Centre Mezzanine Area

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### **Purpose**

To inform Commission about a possible grant opportunity through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – British Columbia Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure and to obtain support for the retrofit of the Comox Valley Sports Centre Mezzanine area.

### **Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer**

THAT to support the priority of retrofitting the Comox Valley Sports Centre Mezzanine area, staff be directed to investigate the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – BC Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure grant opportunity and report back to the Comox Valley Regional District Board.

### **Executive Summary**

Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – British Columbia Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure is accepting grant applications up until October 1, 2020 for projects that offer “improved access to and/or increased quality of cultural, recreational and/or community infrastructure for Canadians, including Indigenous peoples and vulnerable populations.” Successful applicants can receive up to 73.33 per cent of funding from the Government of Canada/Province of BC.

The retrofit of the Comox Valley Sports Centre Mezzanine area would be eligible under this grant program and has been identified as a priority for recreation. This space is in need of a major retrofit to accommodate a much wider use of the space and to provide greater comfort/service to existing users. In addition to meeting space for community groups/user groups the space is also in high demand for public programming for daycamps, afterschool programs, group dryland sports training, bootcamps, fitness classes, first aid classes and staff training. This space does not currently provide adequate washrooms, heating, acoustics or flooring to accommodate these activities. Due to COVID-19 (i.e. loss of many public activities spaces such as afterschool access to school gymnasiums) an even greater demand for this space is expected.

The proposed upgrade would include things such as: installation of a handicap washroom, HVAC for common areas/existing offices, sport flooring, upgrade to LED lights, sprinkler upgrade, acoustic drop ceiling, wiring for sound and projector/screen, potential for divider wall, built in storage and possible architects and other professional fees.

This project achieves the Sports Commission Strategic Goal #1 of asset management by utilizing existing space for higher function and Strategic Goal #4 (accessibility) by improving usable space for

all citizens. Furthermore the 2017 Indoor Recreation Facilities Masterplan indicated the mezzanine needed improvement noting it was too large and too empty.

Staff would like to recommend this project for consideration and receive commission support for it to be a priority. If support is received from the Commission the project/potential grant opportunity will go before the executive management team to confirm this project falls within the corporate priorities for this grant stream. If confirmed, a report will go to the Board on September 29, 2020 to obtain a resolution to accompany the grant application and outline budget and related funding commitments to support this application

Prepared by:

Concurrence:

***S. BULLOCK***

***D. DEMARZO***

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Susan Bullock  
Manager of Recreation  
Programs

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Doug DeMarzo  
General Manager of  
Community Services