

**DATE:** March 3, 2021**FILE:** 1855-03 EP Grants**TO:** Chair and Directors  
Electoral Areas Services Committee**FROM:** Russell Dyson  
Chief Administrative OfficerSupported by Russell Dyson  
Chief Administrative Officer*R. Dyson***RE: Community Halls – Restart Grants****Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to seek support to aid financial funding to community halls in the electoral areas who have submitted requests through the restart funding.

**Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:**

THAT an allocation of \$24,321.44 in BC Safe Restart Grant funding be committed for distribution to assist five community halls with the purchase of touchless items and a portion of their fixed costs as outlined in the Community Halls – Restart Grants staff report dated March 3, 2021.

**Executive Summary**

The allocation of funding to community halls is consistent with board direction provided in December, 2020 and attempt to invest in the long term benefits to support community halls for pandemic concerns.

- Focus on COVID-19 related replacement of touchless items for five community halls totalling \$24,321.44;
- Community hall collaboration meetings focused discussion on restart funding opportunities;
- The \$723,000 in BC Safe Restart funding received by the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) has been nearly fully committed with an unallocated balance remaining of \$60,000.

Prepared by;

***D. DeMarzo***

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**Background/Current Situation**

Through the restart funding of \$723,000 provided by the Province future contributions to support community halls was highlighted in the December 10, 2020 Restart Funding Report to the board. During the CVRD and community hall collaboration meetings, discussions outlined the possibilities to assist in preparing the community halls to operate safely into the future. Community halls were informed of limited funding being available and five community halls put in requests as summarized in table 1.

**Table 1**

Organization	Request Summary	Amount
Fanny Bay Senior Society/OAPO #127	COVID-19 related touchless items and portions of fixed costs	\$3,340
Hornby New Horizons	COVID-19 related touchless items	\$479.36
Fanny Bay Community Association	COVID-19 related touchless items and portions of fixed costs	\$4,142
Denman Island Recreation Commission Society	COVID-19 related touchless items	\$2,360.08
Black Creek Community Centre	COVID-19 related touchless items	\$14,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>24,321.44</b>

Given only two of these facilities are supported by a CVRD service the funds will need to be distributed directly from the general administration reserve dispersed as a conditional grant.

### Policy Analysis

The following was part of the recommendation from the BC Safe Restart Grant Program:

AND FURTHER THAT the remaining funds be allocated to the following projects, with additional project details provided through the 2021-2025 financial planning process:

1. recreation facility upgrades;
2. rural community hall support, and
3. food aggregation and promoting local food security

### Options

The following options are available:

1. Support community halls restart funding.
2. Decline support for community halls.

Staff are recommending option 1.

### Financial Factors

The three items for further restart funding consideration from the December 10th board report are summarized below:

1. Recreation facility upgrades - \$223,000 supported in the proposed budget process for capital upgrades to the aquatic centre.
2. Rural community hall support outlined in this staff report for 24,321.44.
3. Food aggregation and promoting local food security – Food Hub Grant from the Province is underway, LUSH will be utilizing the Comox Valley Curling Rink at no charge and other grant opportunities continue to be available including the \$100,000 the CVRD provided to the Comox Valley Community Foundation.

Of the \$723,000 in funds provided under the BC Safe Restart Grant approximately \$60,000 remain to be allocated. If this proposal is approved there would be approximately \$35,000 remaining for future considerations.

**Legal Factors**

This transfer of funds is assistance to non-profits and community halls and no further assurances for installation, maintenance or operations are being made by the CVRD.

**Regional Growth Strategy Implications**

In a general sense this supports Goal 7: Public health and safety by supporting a high quality of life through the reduction of transfer of viruses to help promote overall community well-being.

**Intergovernmental Factors**

None.

**Interdepartmental Involvement**

The transfer of funds will require the support of Financial Services.

**Citizen/Public Relations**

The CVRD will continue to work with community halls throughout COVID-19 by hosting collaboration meetings.