

DATE: November 4, 2021**FILE:** 7130-03**TO:** Chair and Directors
Electoral Areas Services Committee**FROM:** Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative OfficerSupported by Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer*R. Dyson***RE: COVID-19 Restart Recovery Second Intake Opportunity**

Purpose

To update the Electoral Areas Services Committee (EASC) on the last of the restart funding provided to the Comox Valley Regional Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) to support organizations that directly work or provide services to vulnerable community members impacted by COVID-19.

Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:

This report is for information purposes only.

Executive Summary

The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) Board directed \$100,000 of restart funding to be used through the EOC to support organizations that directly work with or provide services to vulnerable community members impacted by COVID-19.

The EOC reached out to all the organizations (22) that were contacted in Phase One to offer assistance. The EOC structured awarding the funding in two phases. Phase One saw \$55,000 provide and Phase Two will result in the remainder of the \$100,000 being provided as follows:

Summary of provided funding (\$45,000 total):

- Black Creek Bread of Life Food Bank - \$11,250;
- Comox Valley Transition Society - Connect Warming Centre \$11,250;
- Hornby Island Athletic Association - \$11,250;
- Hornby Island Educational Society - \$11,250.

This concludes the allocation of all restart funding provided to the EOC to support organizations for their support of vulnerable populations.

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Background

Black Creek Bread of Life Food Bank

- Over the last year and a half, their client base has dramatically increased from 280 to over 500 clients;
- With the implementation of Provincial Health Orders (PHO) and safety protocols, the organization is facing a sudden unexpected financial burden;
- As of recently, the Black Creek Food Bank has seen an increased connection with families in serious need of food and support, which also increases the demand for extra resources;
- We are now seeing increased transportation costs, due to the delivery of hampers for the elderly, mental health, and working poor families with young children. Food Insecurity within our communities is clearly on the rise.

The funding request will provide support to:

- Operating costs;
- Procure and provide PPE, sanitation, and pandemic cleaning supplies;
- Ensuring clients have access to healthy and safe food;
- Offer emergency funds for urgent shelter or support for homeless individuals.

Comox Valley Transition Society - Connect Warming Centre (\$11,250 Total)

- Connect Warming Centre bridges a gap or shortfall in services created by or exacerbated by the COVID 19 pandemic;
- There has been an increase in demand for the services at the centre due to the pandemic;
- The Homelessness Response Team (HRT) meets weekly to identify gaps in the system of care to support homeless individuals, provide updates, ideas and share knowledge, resources, referrals and support. During outreach, HRT members engage with and support homeless people on the streets, parks, and at encampments, motels etc.

The funding request will provide support for:

- Procure and provide PPE, sanitation and pandemic cleaning supplies;
- Provide hot meals and a warm centre to feel safe in;
- Coordination of professional outreach and services, such as physician appointments;
- Procure and provide survival gear such as tarps, tents, sleeping bags and warm clothes;
- Procure and provide living supports such as grocery gift cards, laundry tokens, and transportation/transit passes;
- Offer emergency funds for urgent shelter or supports of homeless individuals;
- Supporting the organization that has had to temporarily expand services as a direct need arising from the COVID 19 pandemic;
- Provide meals and expand advocacy;
- Procure and provide hygiene products (soap, shampoo, feminine hygiene) and PPE supplies;
- Provide staff and cleaning supplies to ensure the reusable materials (mats, blankets and overnight shelter equipment) are properly cleaned before re-use.

Hornby Island Athletic Association (HIAA) (\$11,250 Total)

- HIAA is the YMCA of Hornby Island and our goal is to keep offering the services that help keep the community, including the neediest, both clean and fed;

- Use of toilets, showers and laundromat are the only ones open on Hornby Island. HIAA's clubhouse is home to Hornby's Community Kitchen, which serves hot meals three times a week to the community, many of whom are impoverished and live "in the rough";
- The showers and laundromats are HIAA's main revenue sources and since the start of COVID-19, revenue sources are limited to coin-operated showers and laundromats.

The funding request will provide support to:

- Continued wage coverage for cleaning of washrooms and replacing supplies as per PHO measures.

Hornby Island Educational Society (\$11,250.00 total)

- The Community Kitchen has been operating for 18 years, providing hot meals, personal and food supplies, and home deliveries to a wide spectrum of individuals and families, both resident and transient;
- Our kitchen is housed in a building that also provides hot showers and laundry facilities. There are no other available outlets providing public health services;
- As everywhere, COVID-19 has increased the number of individuals needing these services. Power outages are frequent here, and health regulations require closure. The closures may be several hours or days, occasionally weeks. The cessation of food and hygiene services during a pandemic is difficult to measure, but we see the results walking our roads.

The funding request will provide support for:

- Supporting the organization that has had to temporarily expand services as a direct need arising from the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Continued operating costs;
- Procurement of a generator and a protective shed to provide emergency electricity to the community kitchen during power outage.