

**DATE:** May 5, 2021

**FILE:** 1855-03 EP Grants

**TO:** Chair and Directors  
Electoral Areas Services Committee

**FROM:** Russell Dyson  
Chief Administrative Officer

Supported by Russell Dyson  
Chief Administrative Officer

*R. Dyson*

**RE: Community Halls – Outdoor Washroom Funding Requests**

---

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to seek support for the provision of funding to electoral area community halls for the construction of outdoor washrooms.

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

THAT an allocation of \$36,000 from the Comforts Stations Service, function 686, be committed for distribution to assist the Black Creek Community Centre, Merville Community Hall and the Union Bay Community Club for the construction of outdoor washrooms.

### **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.

- \$36,000 from the Comfort Station Service 686 is available to support community halls.
- The total request was for \$64,810 for outdoor comfort stations. Depending on the outcome of decisions related to restart funding future discussions will happen between staff and community halls for shared funding models and timing.
- It should be noted Hornby and Denman were not able to participate in this process due to not paying into the comfort station service.
- A second installment of BC Safe Restart funding was received for the amount of \$402,000. Options for Restart funding are also be presented in a separate staff report for consideration at this meeting.

Prepared by;

***D. DeMarzo***

---

Doug DeMarzo  
General Manager of  
Community Services

### **Background/Current Situation**

Staff, through collaboration meetings with community halls, offered assistance with providing capital support for outdoor washrooms to community halls. There are many future benefits to this including servicing outdoor users during the pandemic and into the future, ensuring adequate facilities are available to the public, reducing indoor use of facilities when not necessary.

Table 1

Organization	Amount
Black Creek Community Centre	\$15,000
Merville Community Hall	\$20,000
Union Bay Community Club	\$29,810
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$64,810</b>

Given only one of these facilities are supported by a Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) service the funds will need to be distributed directly from the general administration reserve dispersed as a conditional grant.

### Policy Analysis

The 2021 – 2025 financial plan supported phasing out the Comfort Station Service as noted below:

THAT the 2021 – 2025 recommended financial plan for the Comfort Station Service, function 686 be approved to reflect a targeted phasing out of the service by the end of 2021.

### Options

The following options are available:

1. Support community halls outdoor washroom funding requests and encourage staff to have further funding conversation if any short fall exist with the community halls.
2. Decline support for outdoor washrooms at community halls.

Staff are recommending option 1.

### Financial Factors

The requested amount exceeds the available funding. Staff propose, if restart grants are not available, a fair funding formula will be implemented to address a portion of each request.

It should be noted Hornby and Denman were not able to participate in this process due to not paying into the comfort station service.

### 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.