

DATE: January 22, 2021

FILE: 7200-20/Hornby Island

TO: Chair and Directors
Electoral Areas Services Committee

FROM: Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

Supported by Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

R. Dyson

RE: CVRIS Grant Application - Hornby Island Fire Rescue Training Facility

Purpose:

To seek board approval to apply to the Provincial Government for the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS) grant program for Hornby Island Fire Rescue (HIFR) to enhance the department training facility.

Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:

THAT the Comox Valley Regional District Board supports an application to the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS) grant program in an amount of \$90,484 for Hornby Island Fire Rescue to make improvements to their existing training facility.

AND FURTHER THAT the Comox Valley Regional District provide support and grant funds management.

Executive Summary

The CVRIS targets capital infrastructure projects in communities that will increase the safety and resiliency of British Columbians, as well as, improve active transportation in communities.

With board support, staff will apply for up to \$90,484 in grant funds for Hornby Island Fire Rescue to make improvements to their facility to

- allow firefighters to train on the island;
- lessen the potential spread of viruses;
- support several props and infrastructure to support live fire, auto extrication and advanced fire suppression.

Prepared by:

Concurrence:

Concurrence:

D. Chinnery

J. Bast

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Doug Chinnery
Fire Chief, Hornby
Island Fire Rescue

James Bast
Manager of Fire Services

Doug DeMarzo
General Manager of
Community Services

Government Partners and Stakeholder Distribution (Upon Agenda Publication)

Hornby Island Fire Rescue	✓
Hornby Island Residents and Ratepayers Association	✓

Background/Current Situation

The COVID -19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS) announced December 1, 2020 is a component of the over-arching Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) which provides funding through an Integrated Bilateral Agreement (IBA) between Canada and British Columbia (BC) for capital projects. The CVRIS stream was created in response to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on communities across the country.

The CVRIS (or funding stream) will support infrastructure projects that provide retrofits, repairs, and upgrades to local government and indigenous buildings; support development of active transportation networks, allow communities to improve their infrastructure to increase the resiliency and efficiency in preventing the spread of COVID-19 including protective screens and measures to support physical distancing; and, complete disaster mitigation and adaptation infrastructure projects.

Regional districts may submit one application for each electoral area, as well as one application for a sub-regional or regional service. Eligible projects will support public infrastructure primarily for public use and benefit.

The grant application guide confirms that the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) is able to apply for a maximum of \$10,000,000 per project. With board approval staff will apply for \$90,484 for infrastructure upgrades for the HIFR training facility. The deadline for CVRIS grant applications is January 27, 2021 and project must be completed by December 31, 2021.

Hornby Island is a remote rural community. Currently, Fire Department volunteers must leave Hornby Island for specialized training such as live fire, auto extrication, advanced fire suppression, etc. with current COVID-19 guidelines stating that people should not leave their communities it would be advantageous to make enhancements to the existing training facility to allow more specialized training to occur within the community.

The CVRIS grant funding opportunity will facilitate the addition of several props and pieces of infrastructure to allow firefighters to remain in their community and lessen the risk of spreading COVID-19, while keeping their training current.

Policy Analysis

The CVRIS application requires a board resolution indicating support for the current proposed activities and willingness to provide overall grant management.

Options

The identified options available for board consideration include:

1. Support for CVRIS grant funding application
2. Request further information, or
3. Not support a CVRIS grant funding application.

This report provides information in support of option 1.

Financial Factors

The CVRIS grant program could provide up to \$90,484 for Hornby Island Fire Rescue. The CVRIS program provides 100 per cent funding with no further contributions required by the CVRD.

If successful, grant funding will be recognized in the development of the 2021-2025 financial plans or included in a subsequent budget amendment for the Hornby Island Fire Protection Service, function 220.

Legal Factors

Not relevant

Regional Growth Strategy Implications

Not relevant

Intergovernmental Factors

The governments of Canada and British Columbia are investing in CVRIS to support infrastructure projects in communities across the province. Funding represents a commitment of up to \$80.29 million by the Canadian and BC governments for this stream.

Interdepartmental Involvement

The community services branch and finance staff collaborated on the development of this report.

Citizen/Public Relations

A successful application of CVRIS grant funding will allow for infrastructure enhancements to enable HIFR firefighters to do more specialized training in their community. This will reduce the requirement to leave the community for off-island training. This also reduces the risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19, reduces the amount of money spent on accommodations and travel costs, and increases the likelihood that firefighters remain in their communities and able to respond to emergencies.