

# Staff Report to Council

Financial Services

FILE: 05-1610-01/20

REPORT DATE: June 29, 2020

MEETING DATE:

July 07, 2020

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Cheryl Harding, Director of Financial Services

SUBJECT: UBCM Community Excellence Awards Application

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW/APPROVAL:



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RECOMMENDATION(S): THAT Council:

- A. Approve and support an application to the 'UBCM 2020 Community Excellence Awards' program for the creation of the COVID-19 Financial Relief Grant Program; OR
- B. Other.

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## PURPOSE

To seek Council's approval in submitting an application to UBCM's Community Excellence Awards program for the creation of the COVID-19 Financial Relief Grant Program.

☐ Information Report

☐ Decision Report

☒ Direction Report

## DISCUSSION

### Background:

UBCM invites applications annually to the Community Excellence Awards program which recognizes and celebrates UBCM members that have implemented projects or programs that demonstrate excellence in meeting the purposes of local government in BC. The awards are designed to profile promising practices and to encourage local governments to learn from the success of other members in order to implement changes in their own communities.

UBCM also recognizes the unique circumstances and challenges faced by BC local governments during the COVID-19 pandemic and highlights this awards program as an opportunity to celebrate and showcase the leadership and innovation local governments are providing in their communities.

This year's application deadline is July 10, 2020.

### **Analysis:**

In recognition of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting financial impacts affecting residential taxpayers the COVID-19 Financial Relief Grant Policy was created in May 2020 to provide support to the Pitt Meadows community.

The creation of this program was a unique way of providing financial assistance while also providing a number of benefits:

- Not impacting operational service levels;
- Financially prudent;
- Minimized the impact to the City's capital plan and asset maintenance/replacement;
- Followed proper budgeting practices by not artificially lowering an annual budget that will require budget reinstatement the following year to ensure sustainable services, as well as causing a corresponding tax increase;
- Provided financial relief in the form of \$150 to single family owned properties and \$100 to multi-family owned properties which equated to the average equivalent 4.52% property tax and utility increase;
- Provided a short-term solution matching the anticipated time horizon as per public health officials for the COVID-19 restrictions;
- Did not create the compounding effect a reduced tax increase or reduced reserve savings would result in;
- Was funded on a onetime basis by capital project savings through cancellations, scope changes or surplus project budget; and
- Resulted in a net zero financial impact to the City.

### **COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT**

☒ Principled Governance   ☒ Balanced Economic Prosperity   ☒ Corporate Excellence  
☒ Community Spirit & Wellbeing   ☐ Transportation & Infrastructure Initiatives  
☐ Not Applicable

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### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

☒ None      ☐ Budget Previously Approved      ☐ Referral to Business Planning  
☐ Other

There is no monetary component to this award program and no application fee.

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### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

☒ Inform      ☐ Consult      ☐ Involve      ☐ Collaborate      ☐ Empower

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### KATZIE FIRST NATION CONSIDERATIONS

Referral      ☐ Yes      ☒ No

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### SIGN-OFFS

Written by:

Cheryl Harding, Director of Financial Services