



# Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021, 10:00 AM

Due to COVID-19, the meeting will be held via Zoom Video Conferencing and will be livestreamed on the ACRD website at:

<https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/12-5-2021/>

**Public Attendance:** the public are welcome to attend the meeting via Zoom Webinar by registering at:

[https://portalberni.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ycBu8PyQh6OEN8h6yyRYg](https://portalberni.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ycBu8PyQh6OEN8h6yyRYg)

## AGENDA

		PAGE #
1.	<b><u>CALL TO ORDER</u></b>	
	Recognition of Territories.	
	Notice to attendees and delegates that this meeting is being recorded and livestreamed to YouTube on the Regional District Website.	
2.	<b><u>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</u></b> <i>(motion to approve, including late items required ALL VOTE 2/3 majority vote)</i>	
3.	<b><u>PRESENTATIONS (45-60 Minutes)</u></b>	
a.	<b>Christina Benty, Strategic Leadership Solutions – Leading a session entitled “Asset management Awareness Building Workshop” – Introduced by T. Fong, Chief Financial Officer</b>	<b>3-13</b>
	Click below to watch the youtube video <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3GXprVW4L3w">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3GXprVW4L3w</a>	
4.	<b><u>CORRESPONDENCE</u></b>	
a.	<b>MORATORIUM ON RECREATIONAL WOLF HUNTING ON VANCOUVER ISLAND</b>	
	• Correspondence from the District of Sooke (referred from April 28, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting)	<b>14-17</b>
	• Correspondence from Bears Matter	<b>18-20</b>
	<i>(Committee Direction Requested)</i>	
5.	<b><u>REPORTS</u></b>	

- a. Provincial COVID Grant Allocations – T. Fong, Chief Financial Officer 21-26

*THAT this report be received.*

6. **LATE BUSINESS**

7. **QUESTION PERIOD**

Questions/Comments from the public participating in the Zoom meeting.

Questions/Comments from the Public, respecting an agenda item, can be emailed to the ACRD at [responses@acrd.bc.ca](mailto:responses@acrd.bc.ca) and will be read out by the Corporate Officer at the meeting.

8. **ADJOURN**



Coming to a Zoom screen near you:

## Asset Management Awareness Building Workshop for Elected Officials.



The Board is invited to a presentation designed to increase awareness and support for sound **asset management** practices as the key to sustainable service delivery for future generations.

Bring your curiosity and your questions.

This initiative is offered through the **Municipal Asset Management Program**, which is delivered by the **Federation of Canadian Municipalities** and funded by the **Government of Canada**.

Canada

**FCM**  
FEDERATION  
OF CANADIAN  
MUNICIPALITIES

FÉDÉRATION  
CANADIENNE DES  
MUNICIPALITÉS

# Thank you for joining us!

## We can help!

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Asset Management Practices

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[www.assetmanagementbc.ca](http://www.assetmanagementbc.ca)

Follow us on social:



#OurAssetsMatter



#OurAssetsMatter



# Why Asset Management Matters

**Sustainable service delivery:** Ensure we continue to provide the quality services we rely on today and in the future.

**Practical, evidence-based:** Take the guess work out of decision-making and setting priorities based on what needs to be fixed or replaced and when.

**Cost-effective:** Make cost-effective and efficient decisions proactively instead of waiting until something breaks down and frantically finding a costly fix.

**Supported:** Engage citizens, staff, Councils and Boards in making decisions about what and when to repair and replace critical assets, and where to invest in the future. This includes community conversations about what level of services citizens expect and the costs to provide them.

**Our duty:** Fulfill our statutory responsibility to look after our community's assets.

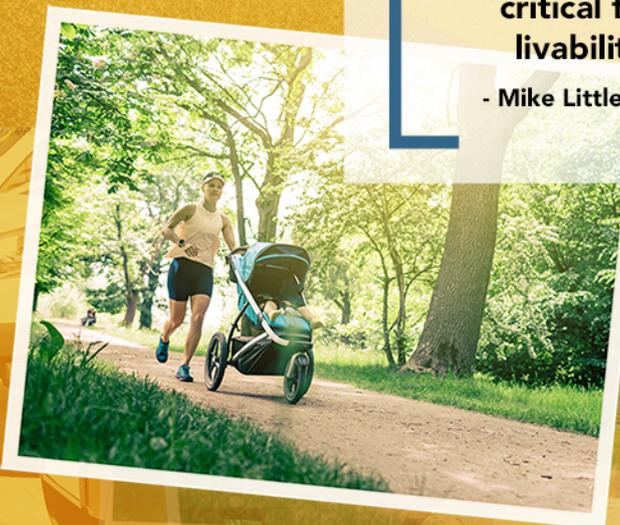
**Infrastructure grants:** In BC, improving asset management practices is a requirement in order to receive Gas Tax funding and improves access to other federal/provincial capital infrastructure grants.

# Sustainable Service Survival: What's Your Legacy?



**"Local Governments too often take core infrastructure for granted until it breaks down. Without robust Asset Management practices, it is too easy for local governments to starve capital replenishment and bring in artificially low tax rates and user fees in order to balance budgets – the long-term consequences of this can be catastrophic. Sustainable service delivery is critical for the guarantee of future livability with our communities."**

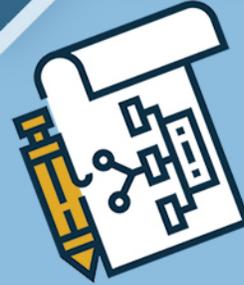
**- Mike Little, Mayor, District of North Vancouver**



# Providing Sustainable Services: What Will Your Legacy Be?

**ONLY 54%**

of BC local governments have formalized Asset Management practices



**1/3**  
of our municipal infrastructure is in need of attention.

The replacement value of BC's local government assets is estimated at

**\$200 BILLION**



excluding land, and growing at about 3% a year.

The capital investment in new infrastructure is on average

**20%**

of the total life-cycle cost - Full life-cycle costs (initial capital investment, operations, maintenance, replacement and decommissioning) must be understood to be able to make effective decisions.

**For every**



invested in infrastructure in Canada, we grow the economy by **\$1.4 billion** and generate up to **13,000** direct and indirect jobs.

**LESS THAN**

**1/2**

of local governments say they will have enough revenue to fund reinvestment projects for the next **five years**.

**SPENDING \$1.00**

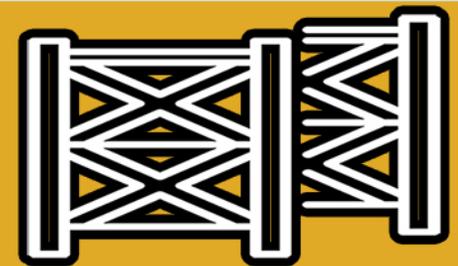
on preventative road maintenance and regular repair during the first three quarters of a road's estimated service life can eliminate or delay **\$6 to \$10 in costs** later in its life.



**Local governments own, operate and maintain**

**60-65%**

of Canada's core public infrastructure. Local government services are much more 'infrastructure intensive' - they rely more heavily on infrastructure to deliver services than other levels of government.



Sources: Canada Infrastructure Report 2016; AGLG Asset Management Perspective Series; UBCM Status of Asset Management 2016; FCM-Federal Budget Submission]

# Sustainable Service Delivery



**Sustainable service delivery ensures that current community services are delivered in a social, economic, and environmentally responsible manner that does not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.**

- Communities build and maintain infrastructure (assets) to provide services. These services support quality of life, protect health and safety, and promote social, economic and environmental well-being. Failure to care for infrastructure (assets), manage natural resources and protect the services provided by nature, risks degrading - or even losing - the services communities enjoy and future generations will rely on.
- Sound asset management practices support sustainable service delivery by integrating community priorities, values, and an informed understanding of the trade-offs between risks, costs, and services and the assets required to provide community services. .

# Find the sweet spot of sustainable service delivery



# Purpose of Local Government



The Community Charter (sec 7) and the Local Government Act (sec 185), identify the purpose of local government as follows:

- Providing for good government of its community
- Providing for services, laws and the matters for community benefit
- Providing for stewardship of the public assets of its community
- Fostering economic, social and environmental well-being of its community

# Senior Government Infrastructure Programs:

## *The growing integration with Asset Management*



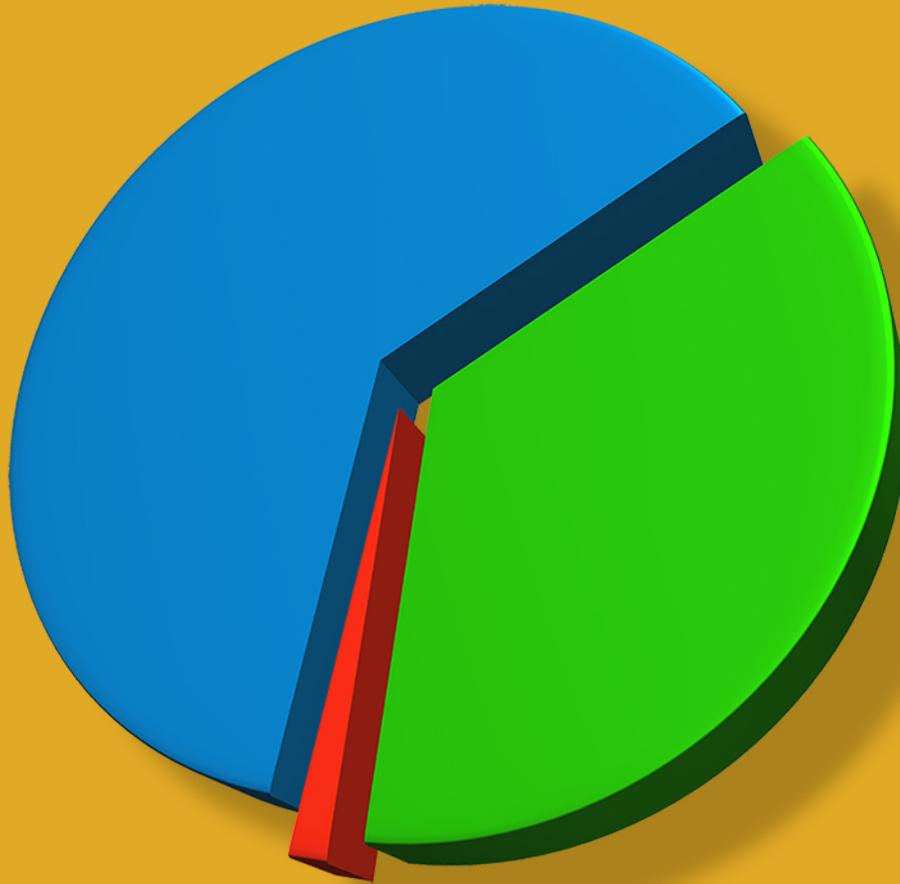
- Improving asset management practices is a requirement in order to receive Gas Tax Funding
- Under federal/provincial infrastructure programs for local governments in BC, projects, as part of the selection process, will be evaluated on how they exhibit long-term sustainability, including operational viability, asset management for sustainable service delivery, and environmental sensitivity

## **Need Help?**

### **Asset Management Planning Programs**

Asset Management Planning Grant Program (UBCM)  
Infrastructure Planning Grant Program (MMAH)  
Gas Tax Fund – Capacity Building (UBCM)  
Municipal Asset Management Program (FCM)

# Future Community Success Rate in Accessing Capital Funding Programs



Communities  
implementing  
Asset Management  
strategies



Communities  
developing Asset  
Management  
strategies



Communities  
asking  
"What is Asset  
Management?"



## Shareable Materials

**Please feel free to download and share!**



Check out the social media shareables and the high resolution files of these posters at display panels sizes (2' by 3') at <https://www.assetmanagementbc.ca/communicatingam/>

For more information please contact:  
[info@assetmanagementbc.ca](mailto:info@assetmanagementbc.ca)

**Join the conversation!**



#OurAssetsMatter



File No 0400-01

March 8, 2021

Attention: Minister Katrine Conroy  
BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development  
Via email: [FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

**Re: Moratorium on Recreational Wolf Hunting on Vancouver Island**

Dear Minister Conroy,

I am writing today regarding the District of Oak Bay's Feb. 22 resolution asking the memberships of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities and the Union of BC Municipalities to request that the Province of BC *"implement a moratorium on recreational wolf hunting on Vancouver Island, pending completion of a scientific, data-driven and evidence-based study that includes consultation with the Island's Indigenous communities, to re-examine the efficacy of unrestricted wolf harvesting practices and their impacts on the Island's biodiversity, wildlife ecology and sustainability of the resident wolf population."*

I am contacting you directly to express my support for this resolution while also sharing some of the outrage expressed within the District of Sooke at last month's news that a Victoria big-game hunter was planning to "trap and kill an entire pack" in the Sooke Hills, according to a report that first appeared in the *Globe and Mail*.

Premier Horgan was duly concerned about this when he first learned of it at a press conference on Feb. 10. And many of us in Sooke were sickened by this callous threat, especially given how all levels of government and many NGOs are working so hard, effectively and strategically to protect wildlife and habitat.

We in Sooke are certainly encouraged to learn of your willingness to consult with the BC Wildlife Federation and the BC Trappers Association to "close the loopholes" in hunting legislation that allows the kind of behaviour illustrated by this regrettable situation. This said, a moratorium on hunting and trapping on Vancouver Island is urgent and essential until we learn more about the island's wolf population.

The Sooke organization Project HOWL (Help Our Wolves Live), founded by local teenagers Finn and Chloe Unger, has reported that no less than nine packs of the genetically distinct Vancouver Island "sea wolf" (*Canis lupis crassodon*) roam the Sooke Hills. The Ungers have documented the role of these remarkable wild creatures in creating a balanced ecosystem -- "if we let them," they add.

The Wild Wise Sooke Society, which receives annual funding from the District of Sooke, has been delivering public education campaigns focused on bears, cougars and other local wildlife, wolves included. Its new "Living with Wolves" working group is a collaboration with Coexisting With Carnivores' Nitya Harris and will involve 20 dedicated volunteers. "We are hoping to not only spread education on the importance of wolves as a keystone species but also encourage

others to support the moratorium on wolf hunting on the island," writes Wild Wise Sooke coordinator Sam Webb. The group intends to consult with First Nations and the BC-SPCA in moving ahead.

Sadly, Ms. Webb reports that one of the Sooke region packs identified by Project HOWL has now seemingly been eradicated according to anecdotal evidence from Sooke wildlife photographer Gary Schroyen. He has been closely studying wolves in East Sooke and Metchosin, and he believes one particular pack has been destroyed with the possible exception of a last remaining member. Wild Wise intends to honour this pack by posting videos and photos on its website as inspiration to protect our Sooke wolves before it's too late.

**Given, as the Oak Bay resolution clearly states, that Vancouver Island's sea-wolves are a unique, quite small and therefore extremely vulnerable population about which little is known, I wholeheartedly support its call for a moratorium to be implemented with all due urgency.**

Sincerely,



Maja Tait  
Mayor

cc Premier John Horgan  
cc Mayor Kevin Murdoch, City of Oak Bay [mayor@oakbay.ca](mailto:mayor@oakbay.ca)  
cc Ian Morrison, President, AVICC [ian.morrison@cvrd.bc.ca](mailto:ian.morrison@cvrd.bc.ca)  
cc Brian Frenkel, President, Union of BC Municipalities [bfrenkel13@gmail.com](mailto:bfrenkel13@gmail.com)  
cc Sam Webb, Wild Wise Sooke Society [wildwise123@gmail.com](mailto:wildwise123@gmail.com)  
cc Nitya Harris, Coexisting With Carnivores [coexcarnivores@gmail.com](mailto:coexcarnivores@gmail.com)

**References:**

- Wild Wise Sooke: <https://www.wildwisesooke.com>
- Project HOWL: <https://www.facebook.com/ProjectHOWL>
- Sooke Talks ~ Finn & Chloe Unger: <https://www.youtube.com/watch/VjEDue4pODc>
- Coexisting With Carnivores: <https://coexcarnivores.org>
- *The Globe & Mail* (Feb. 12, 2021): <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/british-columbia/article-bc-to-tighten-rules-for-trapping-wolves>
- *Victoria Times Colonist* (Feb. 12, 2021): <https://www.timescolonist.com/news/local/hunter-s-social-media-posts-prompt-outrage-calls-for-more-protection-for-wolves-1.24281261>

April 8, 2021

Dear Board Chair and Directors

**RE: Moratorium on recreational wolf hunting on Vancouver Island**

On behalf of Coexisting with Carnivores Alliance (CwCA) and the Wild Wise Society, we are writing to express concern regarding the recreational hunting of wolves on Vancouver Island.

CwCA is a non-profit organization that promotes coexistence between people, bears, cougars and wolves on southern Vancouver Island. The Wild Wise Society is a wildlife educational program designed to reduce human-wildlife conflicts in various communities. Both organizations work closely with the Conservation Officer service, provincial government staff and local wildlife officers to teach people the tools needed to coexist so that we can share the landscape.

As a part of this work, we are concerned for the survival of the subspecies of Grey Wolf (*canis lupus nublus*) that live on Vancouver Island. In British Columbia wolves are killed by legal recreational hunting and trapping - the largest source of mortality for wolves. In many cases in BC, there is no limit to the number of wolves that can be killed daily. Wolves play an important ecological role as apex predators. They provide food to other species who scavenge on their kills, cycle nutrients through the environment and regulate populations of deer and elk leading to greater biodiversity and balance of the natural ecosystem. Healthy wolf populations support intact, functional and biodiverse ecosystems. We believe that it is possible for humans to coexist with wolves in a way that is beneficial to both species as well as the ecosystem. This would require a better understanding of wolves and their interactions with their habitat and with humans.

At present, there is very little information available regarding the population of wolves on Vancouver Island, and how the recreational hunting of such species affects the long-term survival of the species and their habitat. Without science-driven decision making there is concern that wolf numbers may drop significantly under current regulations, as experienced on Vancouver Island between 1950s and 1970s.

The District of Oak Bay has put forward a Motion to AVICC as follows:

*“Whereas the public and wildlife conservation organizations are concerned about provincial regulations for recreational wolf hunting practices on Vancouver Island, and believe that these practices should be re-examined for scientific and ethical reasons;*

*And whereas very little scientific evidence exists about the size of Vancouver Island’s wolf population or the sustainability of impacts of unrestricted harvesting levels on the Island’s biodiversity related to habitats and wildlife ecology, especially at the regional level:*

*Therefore, be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request the provincial government to implement a moratorium on recreational wolf hunting on Vancouver Island, pending the completion of a scientific, data-driven and evidence-based study that includes consultation with*

*the Island's Indigenous communities, to re-examine the efficacy of unrestricted wolf harvesting practices and their impacts on the Island's bio-diversity, wildlife ecology and sustainability of the resident wolf population."*

The District of Sooke has provided a letter of support to this Motion (see attached). We request a letter from you to Minister Conroy and the AVICC in support of the Resolution by Oak Bay prior to the AVICC AGM on May 28, 2021. Please feel free to contact us at [coexcarnivores@gmail.com](mailto:coexcarnivores@gmail.com) for any further information.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Nitya Harris  
Chair, Coexisting with Carnivores Alliance  
[coexcarnivores.org](http://coexcarnivores.org)

Samantha Webb, BSc, RVT, WR  
Wild Wise President  
[wildwise123@gmail.com](mailto:wildwise123@gmail.com)

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am sending you the Resolution regarding the need for a moratorium on recreational hunting of wolves on Vancouver Island that is currently going thru the municipalities' resolution process.

I have included background materials for the resolution in the link below as well as links to two recent published articles on Wolf killing, one from a wolf conservationist in BC and one from the USA on Idaho's Bill that would allow 90% of their wolves killed by some of the most inhumane means possible.

My request is for you to read this information carefully. Please consider who we are in British Columbia and what we stand for? Are we going to continue to spend millions of dollars killing wolves from helicopters and allow neck snares and leg-hold traps, bullets and arrows to kill wolves unabated!? What percentage of wolves will be enough for the hunters, trophy hunters and trappers? Please ask Minister Conroy, Minister Heyman and Premier Horgan to halt the slaughter of wolves in B.C. until more consultation and science is brought to bear on this highly controversial issue by the 'non-consumptive' users and independent biologists.

Sincerely yours,  
Barbara Murray

3362 Rockhampton Road  
NanOOSE Bay, B.C. V9P 9H5  
250-468-7718  
[Bearsmatter@shaw.ca](mailto:Bearsmatter@shaw.ca)

**AVICC Resolution  
Review of Wolf Hunting Practices on Vancouver Island**

**District of Oak Bay**

Whereas the public and wildlife conservation organizations are concerned about provincial regulations for recreational wolf hunting practices on Vancouver Island, and believe that these practices should be re-examined for scientific and ethical reasons,

And whereas very little is known about the size of Vancouver Island's wolf population or the sustainability of impacts of harvesting levels on bio-diversity related to habitats and wildlife ecology, especially at the regional level,

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request the Province to implement a moratorium on recreational wolf hunting on Vancouver Island, pending the completion of a scientific, data-driven study that includes consultation with the Island's Indigenous communities, to re-examine the efficacy of harvesting levels and their impacts on the Island's bio-diversity, wildlife ecology and sustainability of the resident wolf population.

Background & References:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ElvNoG3B8D4pl\\_44L4tI0es-Jzpi6TwB/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ElvNoG3B8D4pl_44L4tI0es-Jzpi6TwB/view)

**April 15, 2021 'Killing wolves is not OK'** Letter to Editor Golden Star by Sadie Parr, Former Executive Director of Wolf Awareness (2015-2020) in regards to wolves hunted, trapped and culled by shooters out of helicopters in B.C.

No – it is not okay to kill wolves. The harm we are inflicting upon wolves is just plain wrong and must end.

For the past 15 years or so, I have focused my life on learning as much as I can about wolves. I've worked with captive wolves and researched wild wolves. I've read about wolves in books, government reports and peer-reviewed science papers.

I've had countless conversations with other people about their first-hand experiences with wolves. I've collected and analyzed wolf poop, I've backtracked their steps, I've captured their images on remote cameras, and I've treasured their howls.

I have been privileged to get a glimpse into the complicated and emotional lives of some wolves, as individuals and also as families trying to survive. These experiences have shaped my views, and more importantly, my values.

B.C. has become a place ripe with carnivore carnage, with wolves as refugees on their own land. The province has completed its seventh consecutive year of aerial-gunning, ostensibly under the guise of caribou conservation.

This past winter, government contractors shot down 237 wolves; chased them with helicopters and let loose bullets that expand on impact. Read more at: <https://bearmatters.com/killing-wolves-is-not-ok/>

**April 27, 2021 BOISE, Idaho (AP)** — The Idaho House on Tuesday approved legislation allowing the state to hire private contractors and expand methods to kill wolves roaming Idaho — a measure that could cut the wolf population by 90%.

Lawmakers voted 58-11 to send the agriculture industry-backed bill to Republican Gov. Brad Little. The fast-tracked bill that allows the use of night-vision equipment to kill wolves as well as hunting from snowmobiles and all-

terrain vehicles, among other measures, passed the Senate last week. Read more at : <https://www.google.ca/amp/s/www.seattletimes.com/business/bill-to-kill-up-to-90-of-idaho-wolves-heads-to-governor/%3famp=1>

*Barb Murray,*  
**Bears Matter Consulting,**  
**Nanoose Bay, BC V9P 9H5**  
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*BearsMatter@shaw.ca*  
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## INFORMATION REPORT

**To:** Committee of the Whole  
**From:** Teri Fong, CPA, CGA, Chief Financial Officer  
**Meeting Date:** May 5, 2021  
**Subject:** Provincial COVID Grant Allocations

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### Summary:

The ACRD was provided three separate sets of funding near the end of the financial planning process this year and those amounts have not been allocated to projects or initiatives at this time. The funding amounts that were received are follows:

- Alberni Valley Regional Airport - \$180,000 – COVID-19 Airport Relief
- Long Beach Airport - \$180,000 – COVID-19 Airport Relief
- ACRD wide - \$166,000 – COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant for Local Governments

Staff have been working to develop options for allocating this funding based on the timelines and criteria in the agreements. In considering options staff have been assessing actual COVID impacts, aligning with the 2021-2024 Strategic Plan as well as capacity to complete initiatives within the timelines. Staff are not ready to make a recommendation to the Directors and will need to invest a little more time to develop a recommendation to best utilize the funds. At the May 12, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting staff will present a number of the options that are being considered. This report will outline the criteria and timeline of the different grant types but staff propose that no decisions are made at this meeting in order to allow more time to develop the ideas.

### Airport Grants:

ACRD staff submitted applications for both the Long Beach Airport and the Alberni Valley Regional Airport early in 2021 and was awarded \$180,000 for each of the airport services. The conditions of the funding are as follows:

#### 1. ELIGIBLE COSTS

- Operational costs to ensure the ongoing safe operation of the airport to either maintain current service delivery levels or expand to meet current unmet demand.

#### 2. INELIGIBLE COSTS

- Capital expenditures;
- Property acquisition;
- Director, officer and management payments and bonuses; and
- Shareholder dividends, share buy-backs and other shareholder distributions.

#### 3. TIMELINE

- Funding must be spent by March 31, 2022 with quarterly financial reporting.

Staff have developed a lengthy operational list that would qualify as eligible expenditures for each airport but see this unanticipated funding as an opportunity to pursue some initiatives that we have not had the resources to pursue before now. For example, there are long-term planning initiatives that may assist the Long Beach Airport is becoming more sustainable in the future such as a subdivision servicing plan. For the Alberni Valley Regional Airport, the newly developed AVRA Strategic Plan includes many initiatives that the Advisory Committee will be working with to recommend an implementation plan.

### **COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant for Local Governments:**

This grant was additional funding from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to the initial amount that was provided in the fall of 2020. The initial funding was \$485,000 and the additional amount was \$166,000 for a total of \$651,000. The letter announcing the funding has been attached. The conditions of the funding are as follows:

#### **1. ELIGIBLE COSTS**

- addressing revenues shortfalls;
- facility reopening and operating costs;
- emergency planning and response costs;
- bylaw enforcement and protective services like fire protection and police;
- computer and other electronic technology costs (to improve interconnectivity and virtual communications);
- services for vulnerable persons (e.g. persons living with disabilities, mental illness or addictions, persons experiencing homelessness or other vulnerabilities); and
- other related costs.

#### **2. TIMELINE**

- this use of this funding does not have an end date but the funding must be allocated by December 31, 2021.

This funding was presented to the Board on March 24, 2021 and the following resolution was passed:

*THAT the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors direct staff to bring back a report outlining eligible options for use of the additional \$166,000 of Provincial COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant for Local Governments to the Board of Directors on or before May 12, 2021 with a weighting towards rural areas.*

As of the writing of this report, we are identifying initiatives that could utilize this funding to present to the Board while working to determine an appropriate allocation of the funding. To complete the allocation analysis, staff would also like to better understand from the Board the nature of the direction, 'weighting towards rural areas', as we note that many services benefit both municipal and electoral area partners.

### **Time Requirements – Staff & Elected Officials:**

Staff have been discussing many options over the past month and further time will be required to determine the recommendation. Also, all three of the grants have reporting requirements that will need to be met while the funding is being used.

### **Financial:**

Once an allocation of the funding is determined a Financial Plan amendment will be required.

**Policy or Legislation:**

The grant agreements outline the criteria and requirements for the funding.

Submitted by:   
Teri Fong, CPA, CGA, Chief Financial Officer

Approved by:   
Douglas Holmes, BBA, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer



March 22, 2021

Ref: 265703

Doug Holmes  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Regional District of Alberni-Clayoquot  
3008 Fifth Ave  
Port Alberni BC V9Y 2E3

Dear Doug Holmes:

The provincial government understands the fiscal impacts that COVID-19 has placed on local service providers. To help address these challenges, the Province of British Columbia announced nearly \$2 billion in joint Federal/Provincial spending, including: \$540 million for local governments, \$418 million for community infrastructure, and \$1 billion for transit, TransLink, and ferries.

The \$540 million for local governments was further divided into three funding streams. Two of the streams (Development Services for \$15 million and Strengthening Communities for \$100 million) are application-based funding. For more information on these two funding streams, please visit the following program webpages:

- **Development Services** – <https://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/funding/lgps/local-government-development-approvals.html>
- **Strengthening Communities** – <https://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/funding/lgps/strengthening-communities-services.html>

The third stream provides direct grants to local governments. This funding stream is called the "COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant for Local Governments" and provides \$425 million for local operations impacted by COVID-19. This funding supports local governments as they deal with increased operating costs and lower revenue due to COVID-19.

Of this \$425 million, \$415 million was paid out in November 2020 to local governments and the Province is now in a position to allocate the remaining \$10 million to continue to support local service providers. Of the \$415 million allocated to local governments in November, \$21 million was allocated to regional districts. This amount was relatively small (compared with the allocation to municipalities) because municipalities faced revenue risks and expenses, and the Province and municipalities ensured that regional requisitions would be fully remitted in 2020.

.../2

While the regional tax base was kept whole in 2020, the Province acknowledges that regional districts have developed other COVID-related financial shortfalls and pressures. For this reason, the Province has decided to allocate the \$10 million holdback to the 27 regional districts.

Under section 36 of the *Local Government Grants Regulation*, the amount of the grant to each regional district is set by the Minister of Municipal Affairs. The determination of this amount was based on an allocation formula that applies equally to all regional districts. The allocation is as follows: 20 percent of the holdback will be allocated on total regional population, and the remaining 80 percent was allocated on rural population (i.e. population in electoral areas). This was done in recognition of the additional costs associated with servicing remote rural areas.

For the Regional District of Alberni-Clayoquot, the Province provided **\$485,000** in November 2020. The Province is providing an additional **\$166,000** in March 2021, which represents a **34 percent** increase over the initial installment. The total of both installments is **\$651,000**.

Like the November payment, this funding will also ensure regional districts can continue to deliver the services people depend on in their communities. COVID related eligible costs will include:

- addressing revenues shortfalls;
- facility reopening and operating costs;
- emergency planning and response costs;
- bylaw enforcement and protective services like fire protection and police;
- computer and other electronic technology costs (to improve interconnectivity and virtual communications);
- services for vulnerable persons (e.g. persons living with disabilities, mental illness or addictions, persons experiencing homelessness or other vulnerabilities); and
- other related costs.

To ensure optimal transparency on the use of funds, there are two reporting requirements for regional districts. First, as part of the 2021 audited financial statements, the regional district must provide a report on how the funds were allocated to various regional and local services.

The second reporting requirement is an annual report on how the grant funds were spent in that year. This will be a schedule to your audited financial statements, under section 377 of the *Local Government Act*. The schedule will include the amount of funding received, the use of those funds, and the year-end balance of unused funds. This report may be consolidated for the entire regional district, rather than reporting on a service-by-service level. Your regional district must continue to annually report on the use of grant money until the funds are fully drawn down.

For the purpose of reporting, the two payments (November 2020 and March 2021) may be treated as one pooled grant. Thus, a regional district is **not** required to report on the two payments separately.

If you have a questions or comments regarding this letter, please feel free to contact Jennifer Richardson, Grants Analyst, Local Government Infrastructure and Finance Branch, by email at: [Jennifer.Richardson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Richardson@gov.bc.ca), or by telephone at: 778 698-3243.

.../3

Doug Holmes  
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The provincial government welcomes this opportunity to support COVID-19 restart and recovery throughout British Columbia.

Sincerely,



Okenge Yuma Morisho  
Deputy Minister

pc: Teri Fong, Chief Financial Officer, Regional District of Alberni-Clayoquot  
Jennifer Richardson, Grants Analyst, Local Government Infrastructure and Finance Branch