



**Date:** 03/07/2018

## **AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

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**To:** Chair and Directors, Cariboo Regional District Board

**And To:** John MacLean, Chief Administrative Officer

**From:** Darron Campbell, Manager of Community Services

**Date of Meeting:** Cariboo Regional District Board\_Jul13\_2018

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### **Short Summary:**

BC Rural Dividend Program Application - Runway Overlay for South Cariboo Regional Airport

### **Voting:**

Corporate Vote – Unweighted

### **Memorandum:**

The Cariboo Regional District received an advisory and guidelines that applications are now being accepted for the BC Rural Dividend provincial grant funding program's fifth intake.

The program assists rural communities with a population of 25,000 or less in strengthening their community resilience and supporting their social, cultural and economic viability.

The deadline for applications is July 31, 2018.

The Regional District may submit one application under the Single Applicant or Partnership funding stream and one application under the Project Development funding stream per Electoral Area or unincorporated community in each intake. Non-profit organizations can apply directly to the program and it is expected that numerous non-profit groups throughout the Region will access the program.

The Partnership funding stream requires the applicant to have at least one eligible partner. All partners listed in the application are required to provide a partnership letter to the Rural Dividend confirming their role and commitment to the project.

The grant program funding will cover infrastructure costs up to a maximum of 25% of the total project cost.

Construction of a runway, taxiway and apron asphalt overlay at the South Cariboo Regional District Airport is an appropriate project for a Partnership application. The existing runway is experiencing a loss of aggregate, leading to a gradual deterioration of the surface. It has been determined through engineering reviews that a rejuvenation product will not resolve this issue. In

order to preserve the long-term viability of the runway and to promote safety at the airport, a full runway overlay is required.

The project is a 2019 business plan goal and development of design plans for the overlay are in progress through a previously successful Rural Dividend grant. The District of 100 Mile House will be approached to partner in the project as the District is a participant in the South Cariboo Regional Airport function.

Avia NG is currently developing the construction ready design plans as well as a project cost estimate, which is expected to be about \$2.5–3.5 million. In addition to the Rural Dividend application, the Regional District expects to obtain funding from the Northern Development Initiative Trust, BC Air Access Program and Community Works Fund for an energy efficient runway lighting upgrade.

The South Cariboo Regional Airport has the longest runway in the south Cariboo and is the primary gateway to the area for large commercial aircraft as well as tourism and private flights. The airport is also the area's main access point for RCMP flights, firefighting aircraft, forest fire surveillance and medical evacuation flights. A runway overlay will help ensure the airport continues to provide reliability of movement that will support the south Cariboo's attractiveness to businesses and investors, providing local and regional economic benefits, as well as supporting safety for all airport users.

Maintenance of the runway also supports the continuation of the airport as a critical asset in emergency events. During the 2017 wildfires, the airport provided fuel and landing sites for the numerous firefighting aircraft in the area.

### **Attachments:**

None

### **Financial Implications:**

The BC Rural Dividend Partnership funding stream covers infrastructure costs up to a maximum of 25% of the total project cost.

It is expected the cost estimate for the project to be up to \$3.5 million depending on the engineering concept designs, which are in progress now.

Funding sources for the project may include: \$500,000 from the Rural Dividend, \$1,750,000 from the BC Air Access Program (or an equivalent federal opportunity), \$250,000 from Northern Development, \$500,000 from the Regional District Community Works Funds for the LED lighting upgrade and up to \$500,000 from capital reserves of the South Cariboo Regional Airport function.

### **Policy Implications:**

Runway overlay construction at the South Cariboo Regional Airport was chosen as a Partnership funding stream application as the project meets identified strategic and business plan goals.

The South Cariboo Regional Airport service has participation from Electoral Areas G, H, and L and the District of 100 Mile House, which together have a population of 13,124, fulfilling the program's requirement for the project to benefit communities of 25,000 or less.

**Alignment with Strategic Plan:**

- Ensuring Sufficient and Sustainable Funding
- Building on our Relationships
- Providing Cost Effective High Quality Services
- Focusing on Being Well Governed

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**CAO Comments:**

I concur with this recommendation.

**Options:**

- 1) Endorse recommendation
- 2) Receipt and other action
- 3) Defer

**Recommendation:**

That the agenda item summary from Darron Campbell, Manager of Community Services, dated July 3, 2018, regarding the BC Rural Dividend grant program, be received. Further, that an application for \$500,000 be submitted under the Partnership funding stream for construction of a runway overlay at the South Cariboo Regional Airport and that a letter be requested from the District of 100 Mile House confirming partnership in the project.