

From: PSSG WEBFEEDBACK PSSG:EX <PSSGWebFeedback@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: July 30, 2019 2:06 PM
Subject: FW: 556419

Cariboo Regional District
File No.400-20.....

JUL 30 2019

Referred To: CAD / MOPS /
Chair / Board - Aug. 23rd

Dear Regional District Chairs:

It has come to my attention that there is uncertainty regarding the eligibility of local organizations in accessing funding recently announced by the provincial government.

As you are aware, on May 10, 2019, the Province announced a \$5 million investment for equipment and training for volunteer and composite fire departments through the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF): a program administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) with provincial funding. (news release: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2019PSSG0051-000922>)

The funding is part of a newly established funding stream — Volunteer & Composite Fire Departments Equipment & Training — available to local governments, First Nations communities, and society-run departments aimed at leveling the playing field for smaller fire departments that have limited sources of funding and that provide an invaluable service to underserved areas of the province.

As stated in UBCM's program guide: "The intent of this funding stream is to build the resiliency of volunteer and composite fire departments through the purchase of new or replacement equipment and to facilitate the delivery of training. Ongoing operational costs and the purchase of major fire apparatus are not eligible."

A question has arisen regarding the eligibility of society-run departments in applying for funding consideration. Staff from UBCM and BC's Office of the Fire Commissioner have been working to further clarify the issue of eligible applicants and have determined that society-run fire departments and improvement district fire departments are eligible to apply *directly* for funding consideration. I am pleased with these developments and thank UBCM for being excellent partners in the development of this funding stream.

With regard to the amount of funding available, I am pleased to inform you that the funding stream provides flexibility in terms of funding maximums to regional districts that operate more than one fire department so that they are not forced to choose one department over another.

UBCM has amended the program guide and has posted these revisions on their website:

<https://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/funding/lgps/community-emergency-preparedness-fund/volunteer-composite-fire-department-training-equipment.html>.

I trust that this information is helpful and provides further guidance on how we can best utilize provincial funding at the local level to improve public safety and increase resilience in our communities.

Please disseminate this revised information with community partners and please be reminded of the funding deadline of November 15, 2019.

Sincerely,

Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety
and Solicitor General

pc: Arjun Singh, President, UBCM
Regional District Chief Administrative Officers
Lori Halls, Deputy Minister, Emergency Management BC
Gary MacIsaac, Executive Director, UBCM