



**Date:** 01/09/2020

**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\_Sep11\_2020

**File:** 6750-05

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## Short Summary:

Low Mobility Wilderness Trails Network Expansion Project - Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program Grant Application

## Voting:

Corporate Vote – Weighted

## Memorandum:

On June 25, 2020, the federal and provincial governments announced a second intake for their joint capital infrastructure grant programs including three funding streams: Community, Culture and Recreation (CCR), Rural and Northern Communities (RNC), and a newly-announced COVID-19 Resiliency envelope.

Guidelines and details can be found online at the following site:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/funding-engagement-permits/fundinggrants/investing-in-canada-infrastructure-program>

Following the discussion and direction provided at the Cariboo Regional District Committee of the Whole meeting on August 20, 2020, an application for CCR program grant funding has been developed for a low mobility wilderness trails network expansion project. The ICIP-CCR aims to improve access to and/or increase quality of cultural, recreational and/or community infrastructure for Canadians.

This project would be eligible for grant funding of up to 73.33% of the project costs under the ICIP-CCR component, which has an intake deadline of October 1, 2020. Numerous trail projects were approved in the first round of the ICIP program and in general these applications appear well-positioned to meet the priority objectives for the grants.

An applicant may apply to more than one of the ICIP components for the same project; however, the project will only be funded through one program. The ICIP also has a new temporary COVID-19 Resilience stream available within existing funding that could also be appropriate to the project when the funding stream becomes available.

The Regional District has embraced creating a wheelchair accessible trails network in the Cariboo Chilcotin to increase outdoor recreation opportunities for people of all mobility levels and to create a niche market for tourism to help diversify the local economy.

Primarily through external funding from the Government of British Columbia, Northern Development Initiative Trust, and Cariboo Strong, 25 wheelchair accessible wilderness trails have been completed since 2008 and three more are currently in development in 2020 with \$130,000 in support from Rural Dividend and NDIT grants.

These three new proposed trail projects for the CCR grant program would be significantly larger in scope than previous projects completed by the Regional District, but with the same low-mobility, universal access concept. The locations include Pioneer Park on Dragon Lake, the Esler Sports Complex and the 108 Greenbelt. The combined projects will provide about 8 km of trail works, along with ancillary improvements for parking, signage, toilets and potentially wheelchair-friendly fishing platforms. These properties were selected in part because the Region owns the lands and has direct or partnership arrangements for maintenance, which makes investments on this scale more feasible.

A project coordinator retained on a contract basis will be necessary to procure and coordinate construction, provide guidance and confirm delivery on standards, and to assist in meeting grant program reporting requirements. The cost for a project coordinator is included in the grant funding application.

### **Attachments:**

Esler Sports Complex; 108 Mile Lake; and Pioneer Park low mobility trail site plans and cost estimates.

### **Financial Implications:**

The proposed project has a total value of \$458,200. The CCR grant application for 73.33% of the cost will amount to \$336,000 with a remaining matching requirement of \$122,200.

A grant application for the full amount of the matching funding will be submitted to the October 30, 2020 intake of the Northern Development Initiative Trust.

However; to improve the chance of CCR grant approval, confirmed funding from sub-regional recreation functions including North Cariboo Recreation and Parks, Central Cariboo Recreation and Leisure Services and South Cariboo Recreation and Culture functions is proposed to be committed in the 2021 financial plan. This will amount to \$40,700 per sub-regional recreation function and can be integrated, in part, with other trail project funding already included in the recreation budgets.

### **Policy Implications:**

The Low Mobility Wilderness Trails Network Expansion Project was chosen for an Investing in Canada Infrastructure - Community, Culture and Recreation Program application as the project

meets identified regional strategic and business plan goals and is expected to have a good chance of success based on grant program criteria.

### Alignment with Strategic Plan:

- ☐ **Communication:** Facilitate communication strategies throughout the entire Cariboo Regional District that meet the needs of residents, community stakeholders, and other levels of government.
- ☒ **Planning:** Intentionally plan services and activities of the CRD to prepare for future needs of residents and community stakeholders.
- ☒ **Economic Sustainability:** Foster an environment to ensure the economic sustainability of CRD communities and the region.
- ☐ **Governance:** Ensure that CRD governance policy and practices are intentional, transparent, and respectful.

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### CAO Comments:

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### Options:

- 1) Receipt;
- 2) Receipt and endorsement of the recommendation;
- 3) Defer.

### Recommendation:

That the agenda item summary from Darron Campbell, Manager of Community Services, dated September 1, 2020, regarding the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program grants, be received. Further, that an application for \$336,000 towards the \$458,200 Low Mobility Wilderness Trails Network Expansion Project be submitted to both the Community, Culture and Recreation stream and the COVID-19 Resilience stream of the grant program, for trail development at Pioneer Park on Dragon Lake, the Esler Sports Complex, and 108 Mile Lake. And further, that the matching funding required be included in the North Cariboo Recreation and Parks, Central Cariboo Recreation and Leisure Services, and South Cariboo Recreation and Culture functions' 2021 financial plans.