



**Date:** 15/02/2022

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

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

**From:** Kevin Erickson, Chief Financial Officer

**Date of Meeting:** Cariboo Regional District Board\_Feb25\_2022

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## Short Summary:

Invitation to join the British Columbia Social Procurement Initiative

## Voting:

Corporate Vote - Unweighted

## Memorandum:

An invitation has been received from an organization called Scale Collaborative encouraging the Cariboo Regional District to join the BC Social Procurement Initiative. The introduction letter and information pamphlet describing what BC Social Procurement Initiative is all about defines "Social Procurement (as) a new best practice used by governments and other public purchasers to create additional social value from existing spending."

The pamphlet and BC SPI website are long on potential benefits that a Local Government may receive if they become a member and avail themselves to the training and consultative support the organization has to offer. Staff have reviewed the material and, at this time, do not feel there is any real benefit from the Cariboo Regional District becoming a member.

In reviewing the areas where social benefits can be realized the CRD is already implementing many of them, in that:

Whenever possible we attempt to purchase from or, contract with local suppliers as a first choice.

The implementation of the purchase card program for small purchases essentially means most of our discretionary purchasing is made locally.

And, on major projects we ask the Contract Manager to hire local whenever possible.

We don't consider things like a living wage because the value and quantity of goods that we purchase is relatively small and typically consumable purchases are one-off in nature.

We currently use the BC Bid Platform and participate in Provincial Government purchasing programs for things such as stationary.

Also, our purchasing policy already adheres to the NWPTA agreement regarding open competition and is compliant with the ITA and NWPTA agreements on Direct Awards.

Courses offered by the BCSPI are not exclusive to members and, individual courses that may be of interest to staff are available at \$ 25.00 per session.

### **Attachments:**

Scale Collaborative – BC Social Procurement Initiative Invitation

### **Financial Implications:**

The introduction letter states, “For annual membership fee equivalent to local area government association dues...”. A link on their webpage takes you to the UBCM website when enquiring about the membership dues. If this is the local area government association dues they are referring to, the CRD paid \$ 14,558.00 in 2021 for its UBCM membership. To join would require adding this to the administration budget and increasing the requisition to compensate. This seems like a large amount to pay for something staff are not likely to access to any significant amount.

### **Policy Implications:**

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### **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 endorse membership in the BCSPI along with amending the budget and 2022 requisition to accommodate their annual membership dues
- 3) Defer

### **Recommendation:**

That the agenda item summary from Kevin Erickson, Chief Financial Officer, dated February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, regarding an invitation to join the BC Social Procurement Initiative, be received.  
*Further action at the discretion of the Board.*