



**Date:** 27/10/2022

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

**And To:** Alice Johnston, Deputy CAO

**From:** Beth Holden, Regional Economic & Community Development Officer

**Date of Meeting:** Cariboo Regional District Board\_Nov10\_2022

**File:** 1885-04

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## Short Summary:

NDIT Application – Business Façade Improvement Program 2023

## Voting:

Corporate Vote - Unweighted

## Memorandum:

For the Board's consideration, please find attached an application to the Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) from the Cariboo Regional District. The request is for \$20,000 in grant funding under the Business Façade Improvement Program.

The program provides annual grant funding of up to \$20,000 for local governments, and regional districts, to enhance economic development by encouraging private sector investment in local business improvement. Visual improvements such as facades, signage, murals, architectural features, siding, lighting, and awnings at businesses across the region are supported to enhance economic viability and vibrancy.

The Cariboo Regional District, with support from NDIT, has been offering this program since 2016. In the past seven years, 32 private businesses from the region have participated in the program to implement façade improvements and have each received support of varying magnitude based on the program eligibility criteria. An attached document with before and after photos shows the significant impact this program has made to regional business facades.

## Attachments:

NDIT – Business Façade Application – 2023

NDIT - Business Façade Before & After - 2022

## Financial Implications:

None. All grants are reimbursed by Northern Development Initiative Trust.

## Policy Implications:

Policy No. 2017-3A-33 states that in the absence of knowledge of material legal, ethical, or other improprieties, the CRD will support all applications to the NDIIT for funding, without regard to the project's merit.

### **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) Endorse the recommendation;
- 2) Receipt and other action;
- 3) Defer.

### **Recommendation:**

That the agenda item summary from Beth Holden, Regional Economic & Community Development Officer, dated October 27, 2022, regarding a grant application from the Cariboo Regional District to the Northern Development Initiative Trust, for \$20,000 in funding from the Business Façade Improvement program to encourage private sector investment in local business improvements in the region, be received. Further, that the application be submitted as attached.