



Date: 23/10/2024

To: Chair and Directors, Cariboo Regional District Board

And To: Murray Daly, Chief Administrative Officer

From: Kathie Vilkas, Regional Economic Community Development Officer

Date of Meeting: Cariboo Regional District Board_Nov07_2024

File: 1885-04

Short Summary:

NDIT Application – 2025 Business Façade Improvement Program

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 (CRD). The request is for \$20,000 in grant funding from the NDIT 2025 Business Façade Improvement Program.

This program provides annual grant funding of \$20,000 for local governments to enhance economic development by encouraging private sector investment in local business façade improvements. Eligible façade improvements include new lighting, architectural features, siding, painting, awnings, signage and accessibility improvements.

The Cariboo Regional District, with funding from NDIT, has offered this program since 2016. To date, 35 businesses have participated in the program. In 2024, four businesses participated in the program in Electoral Areas F, G, H and J. An attached document shows before and after photos of the South Point Resort in Canim Lake, highlighting the impact this program has on regional businesses.

Attachments:

1. NDIT – 2025 Business Façade Improvement Program Guidelines
2. NDIT – 2024 Before & After Photos (South Point Resort)

Financial Implications:

None. All grants are reimbursed by NDIT and projects are cost shared with the participating businesses.

Policy Implications:

Policy No 2027-3A-33 states that in the absence of knowledge of material legal, ethical or other improprieties, the CRD will support all applications to the NDIT for funding, without regard to the project's merit.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

- Infrastructure and Asset Management:** To establish a systematic, predictable approach to managing the regional district's assets and infrastructure that builds on current asset management data and condition assessments.
- Enhanced Communications and Engagement:** To build trust and credibility of the regional district by enhancing our communications and engagement with citizens, stakeholders, and volunteers.
- Effective and Responsive Land Use Planning and Development:** To ensure our land use planning and development is responsive to future growth and housing needs, anticipates risks and hazards associated with climate change and provides efficient and consistent processes for landowners and developers.
- Relationships with First Nations:** To foster a healthy and inclusive region by building and strengthening our relationships with First Nations and embracing the principles of reconciliation.

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CAO Comments:

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Options:

1. Endorse the recommendation;
2. Other action at the direction of the Board;
3. Defer.

Recommendation:

That the grant application from the Cariboo Regional District to the Northern Development Initiative Trust for \$20,000 in funding from the Business Façade Improvement Program be submitted as attached.