

STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

From: Guillermo Ferrero, Chief Administrative Officer
Meeting Date: March 4, 2019
File No: 1855-20 (2019)
RE: **UBCM Community to Community (C2C) Forum Program Application**

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Authorize staff to apply to the Union of BC Municipalities, for up to \$2,000 during the September 2019 application intake for the Regional Community to Community Forum Program to support a community forum with the Stz'uminus First Nation Council, to be held prior to March 31, 2020; and
2. Approve the allocation of up to \$2,000 as the Town's contribution, funded through Council's Public Relations budget.

PURPOSE:

To obtain Council approval to apply for funding through the UBCM's Regional Community to Community Forum (C2C) Program. The Program provides funds to assist communities to hold an event that provides an opportunity for dialogue with neighbouring First Nations, on topics of mutual interest.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

N/A

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:

The Town has received funds through this program for several C2C forums held as far back as 2009.

It is proposed that the Town and the Stz'uminus First Nation work together to hold an event that will provide an opportunity for dialogue and planning on issues of mutual concern. While the specific details of the proposed forum will be developed over the next few months between Stz'uminus and the Town, it is proposed that the previous format of a dinner and meeting between the two Councils and staff representatives be pursued. A few of the past forums have included hiring a facilitator, which may be an option for Council.

There are two items that staff have identified as potential subjects of the fall 2019 forum:

1. Updating the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Stz'uminus First Nation and the Town of Ladysmith - the Naut'sa Mawt Steering Committee has been working towards updating the existing MOU. Over the past two years, both Councils have had the opportunity to provide input and it is hoped that a draft version of the updated MOU will be available by the fall of 2019.
2. Cleanup of Ladysmith Harbour - the Waterfront Implementation Committee has been working towards implementation of the Waterfront Area Plan, including lobbying senior levels of governments regarding issues of mutual concern, the priority of which is the cleanup of Ladysmith harbour.

The Town will take the lead in organizing the proposed forum. Funds would be available to hire a facilitator on contract should that be necessary.

The Stz'uminus First Nation is also required to provide written support of this initiative and the grant application.

ALTERNATIVES:

Council can choose to apply for a lesser grant amount, or may choose not to apply for the funds this year.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The Town must match the \$2,000 grant from UBCM. Matching funds can be a combination of cash and in-kind contributions (such as staff time or donation of meeting space and materials) from the Town and the community.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

N/A

CITIZEN/PUBLIC RELATIONS IMPLICATIONS:

The C2C forum will be a positive step in strengthening the Town's relationship with the Stz'uminus First Nation, and an opportunity for Council and senior staff to work with Council and staff of the Stz'uminus First Nation to address items of mutual concern. The opportunity for a community celebration will engage our communities and further build relationships and understanding.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS:

N/A

ALIGNMENT WITH SUSTAINABILITY VISIONING REPORT:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Community Land Use | <input type="checkbox"/> Low Impact Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Green Buildings | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Use Landscapes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Innovative Infrastructure | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Food Systems |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Healthy Community | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local, Diverse Economy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable | |

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment & Tax Diversity | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural & Built Infrastructure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Protection & Water Management | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partnerships |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications & Engagement | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable |

SUMMARY:



Guillermo Ferrero

February 26, 2019

ATTACHMENTS:

1. UBCM 2019/2020 Regional Community to Community Forum Program Application Guide