



REPORT TO THE ELECTORAL AREA SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, 4 JULY 2007

SUBJECT Regional District Basic Grant

PURPOSE/ISSUE

The purpose of this report is to advise the committee of the receipt of an unconditional Regional District Basic (RDB) grant from the Ministry of Community Services.

HISTORY/BACKGROUND

In April 2007 the Capital Regional District received a cheque in the amount of \$18,000 from the Ministry of Community Services as a grant allocation under the RDB Grant Program. The CRD has not received this grant for some years as it is population based and our population exceeded the prior guidelines. The Minister advises that this grant will increase over the next two years to a maximum of \$60,000. This is an unconditional grant intended for the rural portion of the CRD.

ALTERNATIVES

- 1) That the committee approve using the grant to pay for financial support services for the electoral area as the level of service requested and provided exceeds the existing funding level.
- 2) That the committee look to reducing the level of financial support resources required and indicate the use of the funds.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS


As the growth in the number and variety of services increases for the electoral areas, the demand for financial support has grown far beyond the current staffing complement. This small grant can be used most effectively to help provide financial staff support for the electoral area services.

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

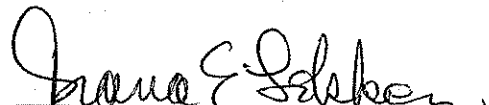
The grant will provide funds to provide financial support staff resources required to administer the electoral area services.

RECOMMENDATION

That the committee approve using the grant to help provide financial support staff services to the electoral areas.



Rita M. Estock, Dip Bus Admin, FCGA
Sr. Manager, Financial Services Division



Diana E. Lokken, Dip Bus Admin, CMA
General Manager, Corporate Services

Attachment (1)



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CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

DATE RECEIVED

APR 23 2007

Ref: 122222

April 13, 2007

BY FAX - 250 360-3130

Ms. Denise Blackwell, Chair
and Members of the Board
Capital Regional District
PO Box 1000
Victoria, BC V8W 2S6

Board Chair
CAO
GM Corp. Svcs.
GM Env. Svcs.
GM Parks/Comm. Svcs.
GM Pl./Prot. Svcs.
GM Water Svcs.

DIRECTORS
KRIS NICHOLS



Dear Chair Blackwell and Board Members:

I am writing to inform you of the 2007 grant allocations under the Regional District Basic (RDB) grant program and provide an update on other infrastructure programs.

Regional District Basic

I am pleased to advise you that the 2007 RDB grants will increase by over 20 percent to \$3 million. This follows the 2005 commitment, made by Honourable Gordon Campbell, Premier, to double small community and regional district grants over four years.

A provision has now been made in the three-year provincial fiscal plan for the doubling to be phased in with two more steps in 2008/09 and 2009/10. When fully phased in, regional districts will have benefited from an additional \$2.1 million in unconditional funding over the phase-in period.

Last year saw the beginnings of a new formula to double the grant program. Modifications were made to funding increments and the move to three-year average population estimates was made. The local community commission administration portion was also increased. These changes were made to address concerns of regional districts regarding the sudden loss of grant funding when population estimates place a regional district just above the 100,000 population mark.

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Ministry of Community Services
and Minister Responsible for
Seniors' and Women's Issues

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Ms. Denise Blackwell, Chair
and Members of the Board
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Over the past year, we have discussed this matter with many of you. During our discussions, it became clear that you wanted us to weight any funding increases towards smaller regional districts and to give more emphasis to electoral area populations in any allocation formula. To address these concerns, we have maintained the existing formula at current levels and allocated new funding on the basis of a rural population tier as shown in the chart. We feel that this produces a formula that is stable, simple and transparent. I am pleased to advise you that the new funding formula has now been endorsed by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Executive.

Total Electoral Area Population	Rural Grant
Under 10,000	\$80,000
10,000 to 20,000	70,000
20,000 to 30,000	60,000
30,000 to 40,000	50,000
40,000 to 50,000	40,000
Over 50,000	30,000

The new component of the formula will be phased in over the next three years with 30 percent, 60 percent and 100 percent of the increase being distributed in 2007, 2008 and 2009 respectively.

Details of this grant calculation are enclosed and 18000 will be electronically transferred to the Capital Regional District before the end of April.

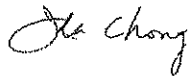
Infrastructure and Green City Awards

This new unconditional funding is in addition to significant new funding for infrastructure. Recently, I announced the first \$20 million in funding under the new provincial LocalMotion Program.

Ministry of Community Services' staff are now reviewing grant applications under the new Municipal Rural Infrastructure Program as well as grant applications under our new Towns for Tomorrow and Spirit Squares initiatives. We expect to have further announcements about these programs to you by the end of June.

In addition, our Green City Awards will award innovation in creating more vibrant and sustainable communities. We have committed \$2.5 million to these awards over the next five years. More information can be found on our website at www.greencityawards.gov.bc.ca. The deadline for nominations for the 2007 Green City Awards is June 1, 2007, with the winners to be announced at the 2007 UBCM annual convention.

Sincerely,



Ida Chong, FCGA
Minister

Enclosure

2007/08 Grant Allocations Capital Regional District

Allocation based on the following data for Capital:

- average (2004 to 2006) regional population estimate of 350418, and
- average (2004 to 2006) rural population estimate of 24654.333333333332.

Regional Portion		0
Rural Portion	60000 x 30%	18000
Local Community Commission		0
2007 Total Regional District Basic Allocation		18000