

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT
REPORT TO THE ELECTORAL AREA SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2010

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS PROGRAM –
Galiano Library Building**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to request CRD Board support for a joint application by CRD and School District 64 (SD 64) to the School Community Connections program for a grant of \$30,000 to conduct facilities planning work regarding the proposed Galiano Library building¹.

BACKGROUND

Since 2006, the Galiano Library Society has engaged in a planning process to build a new library building on Galiano Island. Through the Society's efforts, preliminary design work has been conducted and nearly \$150,000 has been raised to support the project.

As part of this overall planning process, CRD will be conducting a feasibility review regarding the establishment of the Galiano Library building as a service² to secure the funding required for building, operating and maintaining the library building. Pending a favourable feasibility review, a referendum will be required to determine whether or not the Galiano Library building will be established as a service, thus allowing its construction to proceed.

In the meantime, the current round of the School Community Connections grant program offers the opportunity for the CRD and SD 64 to jointly access up to \$30,000 to undertake facilities planning work for the proposed Galiano Library building project. This work will be useful in conducting the subsequent Galiano Library building feasibility review.

By way of background, the School Community Connections Program is a funding program jointly managed by the Union of BC Municipalities and the BC School Trustees Association on behalf of the BC Ministry of Education. The focus of the program is to make greater utilization of school facilities for broader community purposes by:

- Making the best use of underutilized facilities
- Reducing the costs of delivering community programs
- Developing prototypes that can be used to promote further school-community connections

CRD has worked in cooperation with local School Districts in the past to successfully complete projects under this funding program, such as: the Bike and Road Skills Training Program in partnership with SD 61; an outdoor sports court renovation and multi-purpose room re-configuration with SD 64.

¹ The current Galiano Library building is not a service of the CRD. For the proposed Galiano Library building project to proceed with CRD's involvement, it would have to become a CRD service.

² In this instance, service applies *only to the library building* exclusive of library related operation and maintenance service costs such as staff and books.

For successful implementation of this proposed project, a formal agreement between the CRD and SD 64 will be established to define respective roles and responsibilities.

ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Alternative 1: To partner, as the primary applicant, with SD 64 to submit a grant application to the School Community Connections program requesting \$30,000 for conducting facilities planning work regarding the proposed Galiano Library building.
- 2) Alternative 2: To not partner with SD 64 in submitting a grant application to the School Community Connections program.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Engineering expertise provided by the CRD will be charged to the project³ if the grant is approved. No other costs will accrue to the CRD other than the staff time involved in administering the grant.

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

The CRD and SD 64 are proposing to apply for a \$30,000 grant to the School Community Connections program to carry out facilities planning work relating to the potential development of the Galiano Library building. This planning work will be useful in conducting the feasibility review regarding establishment of the Galiano Library building as a CRD service. The CRD will be the primary applicant and will have responsibility for managing the project.

RECOMMENDATION

That the CRD Board agrees to partner, as the primary applicant, with SD 64 to submit a grant application to the School Community Connections program requesting \$30,000 for conducting facilities planning work regarding the proposed Galiano Library building.

Josh Frederick, P. Eng
Engineering Services, Environmental Sustainability

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

Kelly Daniels, Chief Administrative Officer
Capital Regional District

COMMENTS:

³ UBCM has confirmed that the staff time relating to engineering expertise is an eligible cost.