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**REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREA SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, 01 DECEMBER, 2010**

SUBJECT TOWNS FOR TOMORROW – GALIANO COMMUNITY USE BUILDING

ISSUE

Selection of a project for the Capital Regional District's (CRD) application to the Towns for Tomorrow grant program.

BACKGROUND

The provincial Towns for Tomorrow grant program is currently accepting applications for projects involving construction, renewal, expansion, or material enhancement of community public infrastructure. The CRD is entitled to one application for a settlement area with a population of 15,000 or less within an electoral area. Up to \$400,000 can be accessed through this program; the application deadline is January 14, 2011.

Shortly following the grant program announcement in early October, the CRD Grants Coordinator invited all CRD departments to submit project proposals by completing a project qualifying checklist. Three projects were proposed: Burgoyne Septage Facility Upgrade (SSI), Galiano Community Use Building (SGI) and North Ganges Village Sidewalk (SSI). At a special meeting held on November 17, 2010, the Electoral Area Directors had an opportunity to review the three projects.

While all three projects were strong candidates for the program, the Galiano Community Use Building project ended up being favoured for two key reasons: first, the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area benefitted from the last round of Towns for Tomorrow funding by receiving \$400,000 for the Port Renfrew Community Centre/Fire Hall project; secondly, the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area has received several infrastructure grants recently for water service projects and a library. Consequently, it was considered appropriate that the Southern Gulf Islands be given this opportunity to apply for the Towns for Tomorrow grant.

The Galiano Community Use Building involves the construction of a building on Galiano Island that would be used to house the Galiano Community Library. Currently, the library operates in a rented and inadequate space. The CRD, School District 64 (SD64), and the Galiano Library Society (GLS) have completed preliminary planning and design work for construction and operation of a new building. Ultimately, a service will need to be set up to fund all costs associated with the building, and this service will be the subject of a referendum proposed to be held in April, 2011. The local community is actively supporting this project, and to date it has raised over \$150,000 to help move the project forward.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the CRD proceed with an application to the provincial Towns for Tomorrow Grant program requesting \$400,000 toward the construction of the Galiano Community Use Building.
2. That the CRD consider other project possibilities for this program.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

The Towns for Tomorrow grant of \$400,000, if awarded to the Galiano Community Use Building, has the potential to make a significant contribution by covering 33% of the project's overall cost. CRD staff and Galiano Community representatives have been working diligently for nearly two years on the planning phase of this project. The CRD has invested over \$10,000 in feasibility analysis and development of project implementation agreement terms and conditions.

In cooperation with School District 64 (SD 64), the CRD was successful in securing a \$30,000 planning grant from the UBCM/Ministry of Education *School Community Connections Grant Program* to carry out preliminary planning and design work. Thus, the project has a track record of aligning with the provincial goal of stimulating school/community partnerships in the use of public infrastructure.

Inter-Governmental Implications

The spirit of partnership propelling this project - involving the CRD, SD 64, and the Galiano Library Society (GLS) – is exemplary. SD 64 has agreed to lease the property for construction of the building at a nominal fee of \$1/year for 50 years. The GLS and the CRD have agreed on terms for a license of use for the building. The School District and the GLS are committed to shared use of the building for the community's maximum benefit. The community is very supportive of the project as evidenced by numerous letters of support the CRD has received, as well as the funds raised the community has raised to help defray building construction. By applying to the Towns for Tomorrow Grant Application with the Galiano Community Use Building project, the CRD has the opportunity to continue its major contribution to this energetic community partnership.

CONCLUSION

The CRD has implemented a systematic and transparent process organization-wide to identify and assess the most appropriate project opportunities that have the greatest chance of success in the Towns for Tomorrow grant program. The Electoral Area Directors reviewed the project submissions; the conclusion of their deliberations was to recommend that the CRD proceed with the Galiano Community Use Building.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Electoral Area Services Committee recommend to the CRD Board:

1. That the CRD proceed with an application to the provincial Towns for Tomorrow Grant program requesting \$400,000 toward the construction of the Galiano Community Use Building.

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