



**REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREA SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2013**

SUBJECT **GRANT FUNDING OF A FUEL MANAGEMENT DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM
ON GALIANO ISLAND**

PURPOSE

To request a Capital Regional District (CRD) Board resolution in support of an application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative for a Fuel Management Demonstration Project on Galiano Island.

BACKGROUND

The CRD's Southern Gulf Island Emergency Program has worked with stakeholders on Galiano Island to develop a fuel management demonstration project in support of recommendations made in their 2009 Community Wildfire Prevention Plan. The stakeholders involved include local emergency program volunteers, North and South Galiano fire departments, the Galiano Conservancy and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. As part of this process, a fuel management prescription was performed in the spring of 2013 to outline the operational requirements of the proposed demonstration project.

The application for this project was discussed and supported by the Southern Gulf Islands Emergency Program Advisory Commission and funding for this project is included in the 2013 budget.

In order to proceed, a Board resolution in support of the project is required for the UBCM grant funding. This project will be undertaken later this fall, once the current fire season is over.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the CRD Board supports the application to the UBCM Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative for a Fuel Management Demonstration Project on Galiano Island.
2. That the CRD Board does not support the application to the UBCM Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative for a Fuel Management Demonstration Project on Galiano Island.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

UBCM provides 75% funding for projects that meet the requirements of the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative. The initial phase completed earlier this year, completed a prescription outlining the best way to perform this work. Under this application, if approved, the CRD will receive a 75% grant to a maximum of \$25,000 for the actual work involved in the project. Funding for the 25% residual is within the Southern Gulf Islands Emergency Program budget and work plan.

Total cost of the project is budgeted at \$37,950 with \$25,000 being sought through this grant.

SUMMARY

The Gulf Islands are susceptible to wildfire as demonstrated in the significant fire of 2006 on Galiano Island. With strong outflow conditions during the summer, the fire danger rating can escalate to extreme very quickly. With limited resources to deal with significant wildfire events on the islands, prevention is a key strategy. Projects such as this will inform how best to prevent wildfires in the Southern Gulf Islands through the management of high risk fuels in specific, targeted areas.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Electoral Area Services Committee recommends that the Capital Regional District Board support the application to the UBCM Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative for a Fuel Management Demonstration Project on Galiano Island.

Travis Whiting
Senior Manager, Protective Services

Marg Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP
General Manager, Planning and Protective Services
Concurrence

Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer
Concurrence