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## REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREAS COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022

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**SUBJECT**    2021 Community Works Fund Annual Report

### **ISSUE SUMMARY**

This report provides a summary of Community Works Fund activity for the period of January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021.

### **BACKGROUND**

Community Works Funds (CWF) are provided under the Administrative Agreement of the Canada Community Building Fund (formerly, Federal Gas Tax Fund) where funding is distributed to local governments on a per capita formula. Additionally, the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) is the program administrator overseeing all local governments. The Capital Regional District (CRD) has been a recipient of CWF under the two agreements of 2005–2014 and 2014–2024.

CWF received by the CRD is subsequently reallocated to the three Electoral Areas (EA): Juan de Fuca (JDF), Salt Spring Island (SSI), and Southern Gulf Islands (SGI) on a per capita basis in accordance with CRD Board direction (August 2014). Once the funds are allocated to EAs, CRD staff administer the program through applications from CRD services and third parties throughout the year. Appendix A provides a summary of activity since 2016 and balances at the end of 2021.

### **IMPLICATIONS**

#### *Service Implications*

CWF provides funding to local infrastructure and capacity building projects to support the diverse needs and local priorities in each of the EAs. In 2021, successful projects under CWF's eligible categories included water, wastewater, and recreational infrastructure projects, as well as community energy systems projects. To help with long-term planning and to increase local government's capacity, funds were also provided to asset management planning-related projects. Appendix C summarizes CWF investment by eligible category and by recipient. CWF impacts both CRD service delivery and local community organizations. Staff work closely with EA communities to identify eligible projects that meet the program's criteria and provide funding to help with service delivery.

#### *Financial Implications*

To help communities recover from COVID-19, in both 2020 and 2021, the federal government accelerated payments and provided funds in a single transfer rather than the customary semiannual installments. Additionally, in 2021 all local governments received an additional one-time payment almost equal to the annual distribution, effectively doubling funding for the year.

### **2021 Activity**

Tables 1 and 2 provide an overview of CWF allocations and activity in EAs for the past 2 years. Appendix B details CWF projects awarded in 2021.

**Table 1: Distribution of CWF Funds to EAs**

EA	Population	%	2021 Allocation (\$)	2020 Allocation (\$)
JDF	4,860	24	544,748	271,227
SSI	10,557	52	1,205,051	589,165
SIG	4,732	24	529,144	244,083
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,149<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,278,943<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>1,104,475</b>

<sup>1</sup>These numbers are derived using 2016 population statistics.

<sup>2</sup>2021 CWF funding included a top-up payment.

**Table 2: CWF Funding Awarded to Projects**

EA	2021		2020	
	# of Applications	Amount Awarded (\$)	# of Applications	Amount Awarded (\$)
JDF	7	236,000	11	722,555
SSI	9	611,620	8	436,400
SIG	10	636,331	8	244,449
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1,483,951</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1,403,404</b>

**CONCLUSION**

The 2021 Community Works Fund Annual Report provides a summary of funding activity in 2021. Staff administer the program through an application process for projects delivered by CRD services and third parties. Projects must have Director’s support and fit within the program’s eligibility and framework.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board: That the 2021 Community Works Fund Annual Report be received for information.

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Concurrence:	Nelson Chan, MBA, FCPA, FCMA, Chief Financial Officer
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

- Appendix A: CWF Funding Assigned to Projects and Balance Remaining by Electoral Area, April 1, 2006 – December 31, 2021
- Appendix B: 2021 Community Works Fund Grants Awarded
- Appendix C: 2021 Community Works Fund Detailed Breakdown by Electoral Area