



Making a difference...together

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File: 0230-20 UBCM

Union of BC Municipalities
Suite 60 – 10551 Shellbridge Way
Richmond BC V6X 2W9
Via email: ubcm@ubcm.ca

Attention: Brian Frenkel, President

Dear Mr. Frenkel:

RE: SAFE RESTART GRANTS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

At the December 9, 2020 meeting of the Capital Regional District (CRD), members of the CRD Board passed a motion recommending that the CRD Board Chair consult with the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) to advocate additional funding for the COVID-19 Safe Restart Grants for Local Government for Electoral Areas (EA) and First Nations.

The CRD, as a regional district, received an allocation of \$1.421M under the grant. The provincial formulae was based on two per capita amounts: \$8.13 for rural populations and \$3.10 for all populations (including rural), and a flat funding amount. While the grant program takes into account the unique structure of regional districts as a service provider, with differing per capita amounts, the per capita allocation for EA versus local municipalities is vast. The adjusted per capita amount provided to municipalities resulted in a much higher allocation for larger municipalities when compared to regional districts and rural populations. The ceiling limit also resulted in a reduced per capita rate for the regional population.

As a local service provider in the Juan de Fuca, Salt Spring Island, and Southern Gulf Islands EA, the communities were significantly impacted by COVID-19. We recognize that regional districts were kept whole due to tax requisitions in 2020, and as such there is a greater emphasis on municipalities. However, rural areas, such as EA and First Nations, with smaller populations received a smaller amount which has impacted their restart and recovery efforts for local government operations.

The CRD Board requests that UBCM consider recommending to the province that equal funding be provided to regional districts and municipalities.

Sincerely,

Colin Plant
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

cc: CRD Board
Robert Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD