



**CENTRAL COAST
REGIONAL DISTRICT**

Encompassing the Coastal Communities of Ocean Falls, Bella Bella, Denny Island, Oweekeno and the Bella Coola Valley

P.O. Box 186, Bella Coola, B.C., V0T 1C0

REQUEST FOR DECISION

Telephone 250-799-5291 Fax 250-799-5750

To: Courtney Kirk, CAO
From: Bridget Horel, Community Economic Development Officer
Meeting Date: March 15th 2018
Subject: UBCM FireSmart Grant Submission

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board of Directors of the Central Coast Regional District support the submission of an application to the UBCM FireSmart Program for the Wildfire Risk Reduction FireSmart Community Boards Initiative and is willing to provide overall grant management.

THAT the Board of Directors of the Central Coast Regional District support the submission of an application to the UBCM FireSmart Program for Wildfire Cross Training for Volunteer Fire Departments and is willing to provide overall grant management.

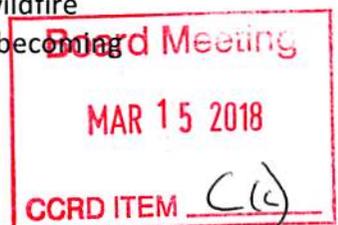
ISSUE/BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Please note that staff have learned that this fund is oversubscribed and will be competitive.

The CCRD has submitted two applications to the UBCM FireSmart Program. The first is for the development of two FireSmart Community Boards to support Wildfire Risk Reduction in the Bella Coola Valley and the Outer Coast and the second is for Wildfire Cross Training for Volunteer Fire Departments in the Bella Coola Valley. Applicants should hear back about whether or not the proposals were successful by the end of April 2018.

The CCRD has [Community Wildfire Protection Plans](#) that were developed in 2006. Recommendations put forward in the plans include: training for volunteer fire departments (specifying S-100 training); maintenance and expansion of Community Wildfire Sub-Committees; and increased community education and awareness of wildfire prevention.

The proposed *Wildfire Risk Reduction FireSmart Community Boards* will operate as a sub-committee of their respective Interagency Emergency Councils, in the Bella Coola Valley and the Outer Coast. In these meetings representatives will become further educated in the FireSmart Canada program, identify priorities and recommendations for integrating FireSmart in their respective communities, and promote solutions to minimizing wildfire risk in the wildland urban interface. There are also funds for each Community Board to host a Wildfire Community Preparedness Day Fire event to raise community wildfire awareness, help protect homes, and encourage communities to work toward becoming FireSmart.



The proposed *Wildfire Cross Training for Volunteer Fire Departments Initiative* will involve cross training of ten or more members of the local Volunteer Fire Departments in a two day S-100 Basic Fire Suppression and Safety Course. The course will equip participants with the knowledge of basic wildland fire suppression organizational structure, wildfire behavior, as well as suppression and safety procedures. The aim is to have representatives from all four volunteer fire departments in the Bella Coola Valley (Bella Coola, Nuxalk, Nusatsum, and Hagensborg).

These project are in line with the Board’s strategic priorities around emergency preparedness. Improved awareness, planning, and training for FireSmart initiatives will also support the Board priorities of infrastructure and economic development.

POLICY, BYLAW OR LEGISLATION:

As per Policy A-18 Funding Proposals, “in the event that a funding proposal falls within the current strategic priorities of the Board of Directors, Board authorization by resolution is not required.” However, it is a requirement of the UBCM FireSmart fund to include a Board resolution of support. This ensures that the CCRD Board of Directors is aware of, and in support of, the proposal.

FINANCIAL/BUDGETARY/ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS:

The proposals are each for 100% funding to the maximum of \$10,000 and do not require a financial contribution from the CCRD. This funding does not include the purchase of any assets.

TIME REQUIREMENTS – STAFF AND ELECTED OFFICIALS:

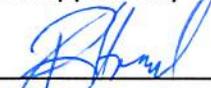
This project will require some staff time for the coordination and participation in the FireSmart Community Boards and associated events. Elected officials’ time may be required in the relationship building components of the project and in participation at the FireSmart Community Boards, an extension of the Interagency Emergency Councils. Contractors will be hired to manage key components of the project including FireSmart event organization and coordination and delivery of the S-100 training.

OPTIONS TO CONSIDER:

Option 1: Support the submission of both applications to the UBCM FireSmart program.

Option 2: Support the submission of either the Wildfire Risk Reduction FireSmart Community Boards Initiative or the Wildfire Cross Training for Volunteer Fire Departments.

Option 3: Do not support any of the submission to the UBCM FireSmart program.

Submitted by: 
Bridget Horel, Community Economic Development Officer

Reviewed by: 
Courtney Kirk, Chief Administrative Officer