

DATE: January 24, 2022

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Walter Babicz, City Manager

SUBJECT: CPG Application - UBCM 2022 Poverty Reduction Planning & Action Program

ATTACHMENT(S): None

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** that the City of Prince George submit an application under the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) 2022 Poverty Reduction Planning & Action Program in the amount of \$50,000 to initiate implementation of one of the Select Committee on Poverty Reduction's recommendations;
2. **AUTHORIZES** Administration to enter into any associated funding agreements.

PURPOSE:

Administration requires a Council resolution approving the submission of an application for UBCM Poverty Reduction Planning and Action Stream 2 funding. Funding will support the implementation of activities to make it easier for people to access the City's Leisure Access Program. This was a recommendation of the Select Committee on Poverty Reduction.

BACKGROUND:

The Poverty Reduction Planning & Action Program, funded by the Province of BC and administered by UBCM, is designed to support local governments in reducing poverty at the local level. The funding criteria requires local governments to have completed a Poverty Reduction Plan. In May of 2021, Council unanimously approved recommendations of the Select Committee on Poverty Reduction's contained in its report titled, "Select Committee on Poverty Reduction – Final Recommendations for Council Consideration". One recommendation was to "make it easier for people to access the City's Leisure Access Program". This recommendation frames the City's proposed initiative that will involve the collaboration of three City Divisions including Transportation & Technical Services, Aquatics and Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships.

The initiative will be a pilot project that will feature several inter-connected components. Some of the key ones include:

- Partnership with key organizations to improve access to the City's Leisure Access Program, particularly in relation to those disproportionately impacted by poverty as identified in the 2019 report titled "A Profile of Poverty in the City of Prince George";

- 3 month unlimited transit passes; and
- 12 additional Free Swims during the year.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

In January of 2022, Council approved the 2022-2024 Strategic Plan. A key focus area is partnerships and relationships. The proposed pilot project will build and maintain relationships necessary to advance coordinated action in relation to recommendations of the Select Committee on Poverty Reduction. In addition, one of two social health and well-being goals established by Council is to provide a community where people feel safe and included. By reducing barriers to recreation activities for people living in poverty, this pilot will contribute to community inclusion.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The grant funding will cover all incremental costs associated with the pilot project. The Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships Division will provide project management support within its approved operating budget.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

Administration is seeking Council approval to submit an application for UBCM Poverty Reduction Planning and Action Stream 2 funding. The application will propose a pilot project that makes it easier for people to access the City's Leisure Access Program. This is one of several recommendations made by the Select Committee on Poverty Reduction, and approved by Council in May of 2021. The UBCM grant will cover all incremental costs associated with the pilot project. The Strategic Initiatives & Partnerships Division will provide staff support, within its approved operating budget.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

PREPARED BY: Bonnie Mercedes, Healthy City Facilitator – Strategic Initiatives & Partnerships
Sarah Brown, Supervisor – Strategic Initiatives & Partnerships

Meeting Date: 2022/02/07