

STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

1100 Patricia Blvd. | Prince George, BC, Canada V2L 3V9 | www.princegeorge.ca

DATE: May 16, 2022

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Adam Davey, Director of Public Safety

SUBJECT: Building Safer Communities Fund (BCFS) \$1.8 M Grant Application

ATTACHMENT(S): None

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council:

1. APPROVES that the City of Prince George submit an application to the Building Safer Communities Fund up to the amount of \$1.8M to initiate the federal "Initiative to Take Action Against Gun and Gang Violence;" and
2. AUTHORIZES the Director of Finance and Director of Public Safety to sign grant application documents and any contract documents should grant approval be received.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to submit an application for a significant federal grant from Public Safety Canada. The City of Prince George was selected as one of several cities across Canada to receive funding for a 4-year, approximate \$1.8M Grant from the "Building Safer Communities Fund," which has the option of using the first year monies to hire a Program Coordinator to design the remaining 2-4 years of the project.

Public Safety Canada is working to build a safe and resilient Canada through the Initiative to Take Action Against Gun and Gang Violence and the Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF), a targeted, time-limited contribution program that will provide \$250 million to municipalities and Indigenous communities to develop community-based prevention and intervention strategies to tackle gun and gang activities.

BSCF is a pan-Canadian program. Public Safety officials developed a methodology to ensure that the funding was equitably distributed to large, small, rural and Indigenous communities across Canada.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

This grant may augment Council's priority of public safety.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

Funding for this grant will end March 31, 2026 regardless of the start date. Administration would like to proceed immediately as Public Safety Canada is looking to sign contribution agreements by June 15, 2022 so that the available funding can be utilized to its fullest potential. A new coordinator position will be hired to administer this initiative through 2026, and be directly costed to the \$1.8M grant. In other words, there is no significant cost to the City to participate in this initiative, other than in-kind incremental startup administrative support.

Updates on this program shall occur on an annual basis as part of the Police Services Annual Review.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Adam Davey
Director of Public Safety

REPORT WRITTEN BY:

Devon Cooper, CPA, CGA
Manager of Police Support Services

APPROVED:

Walter Babicz, City Manager
Meeting date: May 30, 2022