

# STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

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**DATE:** November 29, 2022

**TO:** MAYOR AND COUNCIL

**NAME AND TITLE:** Walter Babicz, City Manager

**SUBJECT:** Interior Universities Research Coalition (IURC) Request for Letter of Support

**ATTACHMENT(S):** Email from Dr. Greg Halseth – UNBC

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

That Council APPROVES Administration providing a letter of support for the Interior Universities Research Coalition's grant application to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, as described in the report dated November 29, 2022 from the City Manager, titled "IURC Request for Letter of Support".

**PURPOSE:**

The City has been working with the Interior Universities Research Coalition (IURC) and the cities of Kamloops and Kelowna to conduct targeted research to meet current and future needs in relation to homelessness. The IURC is comprised of Thompson Rivers University, UBC-Okanagan, and UNBC, and has facilitated several streams of applied research that have addressed complex issues. One of the partners (Dr. John Graham from UBC-Okanagan) is leading a funding application to the national Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). The funding application will involve a national team of diverse researchers and scholars and will focus on preventing homelessness through community-embedded research with a positive social impact geared toward medium sized cities.

The purpose of this report is to advise Council that Administration has reviewed the intent and goals of the project and is seeking approval to prepare a letter of support. The proposed project builds from the current IURC Homelessness Initiative that involves the cities of Prince George, Kamloops, and Kelowna.

**BACKGROUND:**

The attached email from Dr. Greg Halseth was addressed to City Administration. It includes attachments that describe the intent and goals of the proposed seven-year SSHRC Partnership Grant and set out a proposed template to guide the development of the support letter.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

Walter Babicz, City Manager

**PREPARED BY:** Chris Bone, Senior Manager – Civic Initiatives & Partnerships

Meeting Date: 2022/12/05