

# STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

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**DATE:** April 1, 2022

**TO:** MAYOR AND COUNCIL

**NAME AND TITLE:** Adam Davey, Acting City Manager

**SUBJECT:** Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Strengthening Communities' Services Program Grant – 2022 Intake

**ATTACHMENT(S):** None

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

That Council APPROVES the City of Prince George submit an application under UBCM's 2022 Strengthening Communities' Services Program to support unsheltered homeless populations and address related community impacts and AUTHORIZES the City Manager to enter into any associated funding agreements.

**PURPOSE:**

In 2021, the City submitted an application to the Strengthening Communities' Services Program that resulted in a grant totaling \$1.9 million. UBCM recently announced a 2022 intake for the same grant stream. The purpose of this report is to obtain Council's authorization to submit an application.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia provided \$540 million in shared funding to local governments under the Safe Restart Agreement to manage the impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Within the Safe Restart funding, \$100 million was allocated for the Strengthening Communities' Services Program, which aims to support unsheltered homeless populations and address related community impacts. The initial intake, launched in 2021, saw approximately \$80 million delivered to local governments. The remaining funds are now available through the 2022 intake. The City of Prince George can apply for up to \$625,000, the maximum amount available to communities with a population of 75,000 – 200,000. The application deadline is April 22, 2022 and applicants will be advised of the status of their applications within 90 days.

Input from City leadership, together with that of partner agencies and interested parties, informed the development of initiatives comprising the City's 2022 application. Those initiatives include:

- Reducing community concerns in neighbourhoods where unsheltered homeless populations are seeking temporary shelter with the addition of security;
- Providing secure and monitored access to the new downtown pool;
- Increasing the capacity of the City of Prince George to work with urban Indigenous organizations providing services for unsheltered individuals;
- Installing modern needle drop boxes in targeted locations and;

- Implementing short-term initiatives aligned with preliminary findings emerging from the City's evaluation project.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

One of the key strategies identified in Council's 2022-2024 Strategic Plan is "provide a community where people feel safe and included". Council has indicated that its priority will be to work with interested parties to continue the implementation and promotion of initiatives that enhance community safety and the perception of community safety. The initiatives underpinning the City's application to the 2022 Strengthening Communities' Services Program align with this priority.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:**

Administration is seeking Council approval to submit an application for up to \$625,000 to the UBCM administered Strengthening Communities' Services. The City's application, informed by input from City departments and interested parties, will include initiatives aligned with Council's strategy to "provide a community where people feel safe and included".

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

Adam Davey, Acting City Manager

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

Meeting Date: 2022/04/11