

DATE: June 24, 2024

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Blake McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations

SUBJECT: **FCM Tree Grant**

ATTACHMENT(S): None

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council APPROVES the City of Prince George applying for a funding opportunity from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Growing Canada's Community Canopies initiative for Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park Tree Replanting Plan project, as described in the report dated June 24, 2024, from the Director of Civic Operations and if the application is successful, AUTHORIZES the Director of Civic Operations to sign the associated funding agreement(s).

PURPOSE:

To inform council of Prince George's application to the Green Municipal Fund (GMF), a program of FCM, for Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park Tree Planting Project in 2025.

GMF's Growing Canada's Community Canopies (GCCC) initiative funds planting the right type of trees in the right places so that communities across Canada can grow, manage, and protect their tree canopies.

BACKGROUND:

Urban forests provide countless benefits for human health and the environment. Prince George is a City in a forest that boasts opportunities for our community to enjoy the benefits and beauty of a variety of trees species throughout our parks and open spaces. The Parks and Solid Waste Services Division manages the City's urban forestry portfolio.

Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park is one of Prince George premier parks that hosts hundreds of locals and tourists to enjoy the many amenities and events the park has to offer. A Lheidli T'enneh Tree Planting project has been identified and is supported as one of the key focus areas through the 2017 park strategy to determine level of service and resources to provide a proactive approach to urban forestry. This project will contribute to park tree planting, which focuses on establishing new groves and revitalizing existing tree stands in public parks, keeping green spaces healthy and biodiverse.

GCCC will support projects that contribute to incremental tree planting in and around population centres, such as community-wide urban planting, forest restoration in naturalized areas, and more localized planting projects. GCCC seeks to fund projects that maximize the social, environmental, and economic benefits of tree planting and increase biodiversity and ecosystem health.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The funding supports a tree planting project that meet myPG goals including social development and environment and follow City's core values including Civic Pride, Resilience, Optimism and Vitality. The project aligns with strategic pillars of social health and wellbeing and environment stewardship and climate action.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The tree planting project relates to Council's strategic plan by supporting urban forests that increase community quality of life by promoting mental wellbeing and encouraging physical activity, reducing air pollution and protecting biodiversity.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The City of Prince George has a tree planting capital program that would support this project. Maximum award is for funding up to 50% of eligible costs for municipalities including capital. The City of Prince George is applying for up to \$50,000 in funding.

The Growing Canada's Community Canopies initiative has a lifetime contribution limit for a municipality to not exceed \$10 million for tree planting projects. To qualify for tree planting funding, the project must contribute to the planting of new trees with municipal government involvement and accountability.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

The City of Prince George continues to manage parks and outdoor spaces for our citizens. Urban forestry is a key focus area through the park strategy and guides work plans determining levels of service and resource allocation to support proactive management. The City of Prince George is committed to ensuring Prince George's tree planting activities increase biodiversity, resilience, and ecological sustainability.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Blake McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations

PREPARED BY: Robyn McConkey, Parks Services Supervisor

APPROVED:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting Date: 24/06/2024