

Date: September 4, 2024

To: **Mayor and Council.**

Name and title: Eric Depenau, Director, Administrative Services

Subject: Prince George Situation (SPIRIT) Table Reinvigoration

Attachment(s): Draft Letter of Support
Draft Prince George Situation Table Program Agreement Application
Draft Implementation Plan

Recommendation(s):

1. That Council APPROVE Administration to provide a letter of support and receive funding from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to reinvigorate the Prince George Situation (SPIRIT) Table as described in the report dated September 4, 2024 from the Director of Administrative Services, titled “Prince George Situation (SPIRIT) Table Reinvigoration”
2. That Council APPROVE Administration to enter into an agreement related to this funding substantially in the form of the agreement attached to the report dated September 4, 2024 from the Director of Administrative Services, titled “Prince George Situation (SPIRIT) Table Reinvigoration” conditional on privacy impact assessment being conducted to the satisfaction of the City of Prince George Privacy Officer, and authorizes the Director of Administrative Services to sign the conditionally approved agreement and any other related agreements required to secure funding on behalf of the City.

Purpose:

This report is provided to facilitate the receipt of funding pending Council approval. Specifically, staff are seeking Council direction to receive \$30,000 in additional funding from the Province of British Columbia to support training and reinvigoration of the Prince George Situation (SPIRIT) Table.

The Two Rivers Crime Prevention Society, along with the Prince George RCMP Community Policing Section applied to the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (MPSSG) – Office of Crime Reduction and Gang Outreach (OCR-GO) to receive grant funding to establish a Situation Table in Prince George. The grant application was successful and in February 2020 the City of Prince George received \$65,000. The key objectives and expected outcomes of BC Situation Tables are essential to improve the wellbeing of those who are at an acute elevated risk in the community and improve community safety.

The launch of the Prince George SPIRIT Table took place during the COVID-19 pandemic and delivery of the program was challenging to navigate, along with many original partner representatives moving on from their roles in their organization. Based on these factors it is assessed that the SPIRIT Table is not

operating as effectively as may be possible and that a concerted effort to reinvigorate the SPIRIT Table would be of benefit.

The MPSSG has approved a supplemental grant of approximately \$30,000 to support the Prince George SPIRIT Table so that the municipality and collaborative partners can connect with at-risk people in the community and aid them by offering support services.

To receive these funds a support letter has been requested. This support letter is the only requirement to move forward with receipt of funding ahead of the interregnum period due to the 2024 provincial election. Following the indication of support, additional work would be undertaken to ensure compliance with FOIPPA legislation and engagement with the OPIC would need to take place before utilizing the funds and the signing of a program agreement. Drafts of both documents are attached to this report. Again, the agreement is provided for information only and will not be signed at this time. Staff are requesting permission to sign an agreement pending engagement with OIPC and the subsequent work around FOIPPA requirements.

Some of the current participating agencies in the Prince George SPIRIT Table are:

- City of Prince George
- Northern Health
- BC Housing
- School District 57
- Active Support Against Poverty (ASAP)
- BC Corrections
- Phoenix Transition Society
- RCMP

The supplemental grant from MPSSG would be used to provide training and service delivery to community stakeholders. The City of Prince George currently has approximately \$21,000 from the original grant and will have a sum of approximately \$51,000 after receiving the supplemental grant if approved. The Global Network for Community Safety is the identified agency to deliver training for the launch of a Situation Table and the cost is approximately \$30,000. The training includes a number of activities over three phases (Initialization Phase, Training Phase, Post-launch phase).

The surplus of funds is intended to be used for identified training opportunities and the ongoing training of new table participants. Indigenous partners will be engaged to ensure that the SPIRIT Table is collaborative in relationship building and understanding of Indigenous culture so that program delivery is considerate of our diverse population. In addition, funding may be used to support a regular Chairperson, to acquire equipment and software required to facilitate meetings and conduct an evaluation of the Prince George SPIRIT Table's activities and impacts.

Strategic Priorities:

The additional funding, if accepted, will be used as described to support Council's Strategic priorities related to Public Safety.

Summary and conclusion:

Once direction is provided by Council, Administration will submit the application to MPSSG and start the Implementation Plan to Reinvigorate the table as outlined in this report.

Respectfully submitted:

Eric Depenau, Director, Administrative Services

Prepared by Devon Cooper, CPA, Manager of Police Support Services

Approved:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting date: 2024 / 09 / 09