

**DATE:** January 15, 2020

**TO:** MAYOR AND COUNCIL

**NAME AND TITLE:** Chris Bone, Associate Director Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships

**SUBJECT:** UBCM 2020 Poverty Reduction Planning and Action Program – Stream 1 Poverty Reduction Plans and Assessments Funding

**ATTACHMENT:** None

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**  
That Council:

1. APPROVES that the City of Prince George submit an application under UBCM's 2020 Poverty Reduction Planning & Action Program in the amount of \$25,000 to plan and implement a community engagement strategy to gather feedback on recommendations proposed by the Select Committee on Poverty Reduction; and
2. AUTHORIZES Administration to enter into any associated funding agreements.

**PURPOSE:**

Administration requires Council's authorization to apply for Poverty Reduction Planning and Assessment Stream 1 funding under UBCM's 2020 Poverty Reduction Planning & Action Program. Funding will support the design and implementation of engagement activities to ensure a diverse composition of community residents provide comment on recommendations for City action, proposed by the Select Committee on Poverty Reduction.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Poverty Reduction Planning & Action Program, funded by the Province of BC and administered by UBCM, is designed to support local governments in reducing poverty at the local level and to advance implementation of the Province's poverty reduction strategy, called TogetherBC. The UBCM 2020 Poverty Reduction Plan and Assessment Stream 1 funding is intended to enable the development, or updating, of local assessments or plans.

The funding criteria requires local governments to focus planning efforts in one or more of six priority action areas identified in TogetherBC including engaging people living in poverty or with a lived experience of poverty in planning activities, and adding a poverty reduction lens including specific activities and outcomes to support people living in poverty, to existing plans or policies.

The Select Committee on Poverty Reduction has been tasked with providing its recommendations to Council by June 30, 2020. The Committee would like to deliver its recommendations in draft form to Council by this date, and then utilize the remainder of 2020 to seek feedback from people living in

poverty, or those with lived experience, to ensure the proposed City actions will have a positive impact. The design and implementation of this proposed engagement strategy will be the subject of the City's application to the UBCM Poverty Reduction Planning & Action Program. Final recommendations, reflecting input gathered during the engagement process, will be presented to Council prior to December 31, 2020. The Select Committee, as reflected in the resolution below, is supportive of this approach:

*Moved by Ms. Harrington, seconded by Councillor Ramsay, that the Select Committee on Poverty Reduction SUPPORTS the City's grant application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities – 2020 Poverty Reduction Planning and Action Program in the amount of \$25,000 to finance the development and implementation of a poverty reduction consultation and engagement process regarding the Committee's recommendations for City action related to the reduction of poverty in the municipality.*

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

Council has identified supporting initiatives that provide access to safe housing, healthy food, and community services, as a Social Health and Well-being focus area. The Select Committee on Poverty Reduction will deliver its recommendations to Council concerning the City of Prince George's role in the implementation of a provincial poverty reduction strategy, informed by those living in poverty or with lived experience, as one means to address this focus area.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

The grant funding will cover costs associated with the acquisition of contracted resources to collect information (via a series of engagement activities and consultations) regarding the proposed poverty reduction recommendations. Existing staff resources will support project management functions.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:**

Administration requests Council's authorization to apply for a \$25,000 grant to finance the development and implementation of a poverty reduction consultation and engagement process. The process will enable those living in poverty, or those with lived experience, to respond to actions proposed by the Select Committee on Poverty Reduction. This will ensure final recommendations for City actions to reduce poverty at the local level will have a positive impact.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

Chris Bone, Associate Director Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships

**PREPARED BY:** Sarah Brown, Supervisor, Community Well-being and Partnerships Division

**APPROVED:**

Kathleen Soltis, City Manager

Meeting Date: 2020/02/03