

# STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

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**DATE:** January 17, 2020

**TO:** MAYOR AND COUNCIL

**NAME AND TITLE:** Dave Dyer, General Manager, Infrastructure and Public Works

**SUBJECT:** FCM Green Municipal Fund Application – Water Conservation Retrofits

**ATTACHMENT(S):** None

## RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council:

1. APPROVES that Administration complete the application process for a grant under the *Green Municipal Fund – Pilot project: Water conservation, municipal project*, administered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, to implement water conservation measures in a number of Civic facilities.
2. AUTHORIZES the City's Financial Officer and General Manager, Infrastructure and Public Works to sign grant application documents and any contract documents should grant approval be received.

## PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to request City Council's authorization for completing an application under the *Green Municipal Fund – Pilot project: Water conservation, municipal project* stream. The grant will fund implementation of water conservation measures in a number of Civic facilities including the CN Centre, Civic Centre and Elksentre.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

These water conservation measures address the goals of the 2016 Water Conservation Plan to reduce water consumption by 20% by 2026. Reducing water usage also aligns with the myPG goal of Clean Water.

## BACKGROUND:

The City of Prince George developed its first Water Conservation Plan in 2005 and provided an updated Water Conservation Plan in 2016. Prince George's per capita water consumption continues to be above national averages. The City's per capita water usage is 553 litres per person per day in 2017 compared to the Canadian per capita average of 427 litres per person per day (Statistics Canada, 2019). This is, however, a significant reduction in per capita water consumption compared to Prince George's peak water consumption of 838 litres per person per day in 2007.

The goal of water conservation planning is to achieve more efficient water-use by residential, commercial and institutional consumers in the City of Prince George, as it provides both economic and environmental benefits. The 2016 Water Conservation Plan sets out a framework to reduce

community-wide water demands by 20% by 2026. To achieve this goal, the 2016 Water Conservation Plan lays out five strategies, of which Strategy 5 is *City Leadership in Advancing Water-Use Efficiency*. The City conducted water audits of all City-owned facilities in 2018 to determine potential areas to reduce water consumption, including the replacement of aging toilets, showerheads, washroom faucets and once-through cooling systems with low flowing upgrades as well as modification of continuously flowing urinals.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Fund provides funding for water conservation retrofit initiatives that have the potential to reduce potable water use by at least 40% in municipal facilities. This stream of the Green Municipal Fund is entitled *Pilot project: Water conservation, municipal project*. Applying for this grant supports *Action 5.5.3* of the 2016 Water Conservation Plan which states “Apply for grants to continue to retrofit all City offices, arenas and other facilities to low flow fixtures and other water saving devices.”

The City of Prince George aims to put in an application under this stream to implement low-flow plumbing fixtures at a number of Civic facilities including the CN Centre, Civic Centre and Elksentre.

#### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

The *Green Municipal Fund* grant program will fund up to 50% of eligible costs for approved projects. The total estimated cost for this project is \$156,400. The City of Prince George will be requesting \$89,000 from the *FCM Green Municipal Fund* grant program. The balance of the costs will be funded from the City’s water utility operating budget.

Based on the 2018 metered water and sewer rates paid for by each facilities’ operating budgets, the return on investment for the implementation of the above water conservation measures at full price will be approximately 6 years for the Elksentre, 7 years for the CN Centre and greater than 10 years for the Civic Centre. With the grant funding covering 50% of eligible upgrade costs, the return on investment would be half of that.

#### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:**

Administration requests Council’s approval to complete the grant application process under the *FCM Green Municipal Fund – Pilot project: Water conservation, municipal project*. If successful, the grant would assist the City of Prince George in working towards reducing water consumption community-wide. The grant covers up to 50% of eligible costs for the implementation of water-saving measures decreasing the payback period by approximately 3 to 4 years for the CN Centre and Elksentre, and 5 years for the Civic Centre.

#### **RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

Dave Dyer, General Manager, Infrastructure and Public Works

Report prepared by: Andrea Byrne, Environmental Coordinator, Environmental Services

#### **APPROVED:**

Kathleen Soltis, City Manager

**Meeting Date:** February 3, 2020

## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Water Conservation GMF Application.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jan 22, 2020

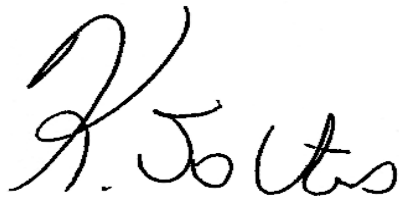
This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



**Gina Layte Liston - Jan 20, 2020 - 9:07 AM**



**Dave Dyer - Jan 22, 2020 - 7:49 AM**



**Kathleen Soltis - Jan 22, 2020 - 9:27 AM**