



**RESORT MUNICIPALITY OF WHISTLER**

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## STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

**PRESENTED:** March 19, 2024 **REPORT:** 24-027  
**FROM:** Protective Services **FILE:** 1855-20-0540  
**SUBJECT:** 2024 UBCM COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FUND GRANT –  
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING

### RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**That** the recommendation of the General Manager of Corporate Services and Public Safety be endorsed.

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

**That** Council endorse the submission of the grant application to the Union of B.C Municipalities for the Emergency Operations Centre Training initiative (Grant); and

**That** Council support the proposed activities in the Grant application; and further

**That** Council supports the Resort Municipality of Whistler Emergency Program utilizing the Grant and providing overall Grant management, if the funding applications are successful.

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council's endorsement of the proposed grant application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM). The grant would fund additional training and equipment designed to support the Alta Vista Yard Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) readiness and capacity. For the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) to be eligible for UBCM grant funding, a Council resolution indicating support for the grant application and direction to provide overall grant management, must be submitted.

Information Report

Administrative Report (Decision or Direction)

### DISCUSSION

#### Background

UBCM is currently accepting grant applications to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) funding stream. The grant application found in Appendix A of this report, seek to fund a project for the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Equipment and Training Project 2024. The EOC Equipment and Training Project will improve and enhance the knowledge and readiness capabilities of

MARCH 19, 2024

the RMOW staff who operate within the EOC as well as improve the functionality of the space itself. This grant is designed to fund the following initiatives:

- a) an opportunity for up to 12 staff to be trained in Rapid Damage Assessment, and Damage Assessment Coordinator courses;
- b) improvements to the Alta Vista EOC facility in order to better facilitate information displays and communications with outside authorities during an emergency; and
- c) storage improvements for EOC supplies to ensure a secure, centralized location for required supplies and equipment.

### **Analysis**

The Damage Assessment training will increase the organization’s capacity to quickly assess damage to structures and infrastructure in the community during an emergency so that staff can plan to ensure public safety, as well as better receive and process related information. Damage assessments allow informed decisions to be made while planning for re-entry after evacuations to ensure safety of the public, and to facilitate provincial reporting by describing impacts so that appropriate provincial support can be requested.

The current EOC location at Alta Vista works yard requires some storage improvements as well as technological improvements (monitors, projectors, switch gear and communication equipment). These updates will allow for better sharing of information and more timely decision making. Some of this equipment will be portable, facilitating relocation of an EOC if necessary.

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## **POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Relevant Council Authority/Previous Decisions**

This project ensures that the RMOW maintains compliance with the BC *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (Emergency Act) to establish and maintain an emergency operations centre during an emergency. This enables the RMOW to take the necessary actions to meet the requirements of the Emergency Act and the RMOW “Emergency Measures Bylaw No. 1593, 2002” (Emergency Measures Bylaw), as well as to promote the protection of lives and property within the community.

This project also serves to meet the objectives of the Emergency Planning Committee terms of reference to ensure all emergency planning responsibilities as set out in the Emergency Act, the Emergency Measures Bylaw and the RMOW Comprehensive Emergency Plan are adequately met.

### **2023-2026 Strategic Plan**

The 2023-2026 Strategic Plan outlines the high-level direction of the RMOW to help shape community progress during this term of Council. The Strategic Plan contains four priority areas with various associated initiatives that support them. This section identifies how this report links to the Strategic Plan.

#### **Strategic Priorities**

Housing

*Expedite the delivery of and longer-term planning for employee housing*

Climate Action

*Mobilize municipal resources toward the implementation of the Big Moves Climate Action Plan*

MARCH 19, 2024

The new Emergency Act requires that risk assessments and emergency plans consider climate change. The frequency and severity of emergencies are expected to increase because of climate change.

Community Engagement

*Strive to connect locals to each other and to the RMOW*

Smart Tourism

*Preserve and protect Whistler's unique culture, natural assets and infrastructure*

Not Applicable

*Aligns with core municipal work that falls outside the strategic priorities but improves, maintains, updates and/or protects existing and essential community infrastructure or programs*

### **Community Vision and Official Community Plan**

The Official Community Plan (OCP) is the RMOW's most important guiding document that sets the community vision and long-term community direction. This section identifies how this report applies to the OCP. This grant application aligns with the following goals, objectives and policies of Whistler's OCP:

#### **8.7. Goal** Ensure Whistler is a safe and secure resort community.

**8.7.2. Objective** Maintain a safe community through the provision of sufficient fire, rescue and emergency services.

**8.7.2.7. Policy** Ensure training standards are met and staff is able to effectively respond to emergency events.

**8.7.2.13. Policy** Facilitate a centrally located, multi-agency Emergency Operations Centre.

**8.7.4. Objective** Ensure emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery policies actively anticipate the impacts of climate change.

**8.7.4.2. Policy** Prepare and maintain emergency plans that consider increasing hazards as a result of a changing climate.

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### **BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS**

If the grant application is successful, the project described above will be 100 per cent grant funded in the amount of \$17,800. Staff time to administer the initiatives described in the project will be funded through existing 2024 RMOW operating budget.

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### **LÍLWAT NATION & SQUAMISH NATION CONSIDERATIONS**

The RMOW is committed to working with the Lílwat People, known in their language as *L'il'wat7úl* and the Squamish People, known in their language as the *Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw* to: create an enduring relationship; establish collaborative processes for Crown land planning; achieve mutual objectives; and enable participation in Whistler's resort economy.

Funding through a different funding stream is being secured to support consultation and cooperation with the Lílwat Nation and the Squamish Nation to meet requirements under the new Emergency Act for collaborative measures to support emergency planning.

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MARCH 19, 2024

Rapid damage assessments have the potential to help to inform the Lílwat Nation and the Squamish Nation about the potential impacts of an event to structures and infrastructure of concern within Whistler (e.g. Squamish Lílwat Cultural Centre) prior to re-entering the facility.

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## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Level of community engagement commitment for this project:

Inform     Consult     Involve     Collaborate     Empower

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## REFERENCES

Appendix A – CEPF 2024 EOC Program Guide  
Appendix B – CEPF EOC 2024 Application Worksheet 2023-12  
Appendix C – 2024 RMOW EOC Grant Application Item List

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## SUMMARY

Staff are seeking Council endorsement of a grant application to the UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund program. The proposed initiative will enhance the capacity of the RMOW to respond to, as well as manage the affects of, an emergency event. A Council resolution indicating support for the grant application, and direction to provide overall grant management must be submitted with the application.

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## SIGN-OFFS

### Written by:

Bob Manson  
Emergency Program Coordinator

### Reviewed by:

Lindsay Debou,  
Manager of Protective Services

Ted Battiston,  
General Manager of Corporate Services and  
Public Safety

Virginia Cullen,  
Chief Administrative Officer