

Committee of the Whole Report For the Meeting of February 21, 2019

То:	Committee of the Whole	Date:	January 30, 2019
From:	Thomas Soulliere, Director of Park, Recreation and Facilities		
Subject:	Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre Replacement Project – Gas Tax Grant Deadline		

RECOMMENDATION

That Council direct staff to advise UBCM that the City cannot satisfy the Gas Tax Grant condition for the Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre Replacement Project.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In February 2018, the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) announced the award of \$6 million from the federal Gas Tax Fund for the Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre Replacement Project. This funding commitment was conditional on the City acquiring the balance of funding for the project by March 31, 2019.

In November 2018, Council approved a substantial change to the project, instructing staff to revisit the site plans for the new facility and engage with RG Properties on the feasibility of building on the parking lot adjacent to the City's arena. Council also directed staff to complete design development work for the original site plan in Central Park.

Over the past two months, the project team has completed work relating to the original project scope, while also planning the next phase of activities, which will take place over the next several months, on to the potential for co-location of new amenities.

Given the current state of the project, the City is unable to satisfy the grant condition. Attached to this report is a copy of a letter from UBCM (January 9, 2019), confirming that extensions to the deadline will not be considered. Staff have met with representatives of UBCM recently and understand that the funding program received hundreds of applications from jurisdictions across B.C. for support well-beyond the available funds.

Staff recommend communicating in writing to UBCM, to acknowledge this situation in advance of the March 31 deadline, and allow UBCM to consider awarding this funding to other deserving projects in the province.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Soulliere Director Parks, Recreation and Facilities

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:

M/N 76 Date:

Attachment

A - Letter from UBCM (January 9, 2019)