



Committee of the Whole Report For the Meeting of November 14, 2019

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** October 30, 2019
From: Andrea Hudson, Acting Director, Sustainable Planning and Community Development
Subject: UBCM Housing Needs Reports Program Grant

RECOMMENDATION

That the City of Victoria support the Capital Regional District to apply for, receive, and manage UBCM grant funding to complete a housing needs report in partnership with the City of Victoria.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is intending to apply for a grant to lead a coordinated approach to completing the provincially mandated housing needs report. The CRD has sent a letter to the City of Victoria (Attachment 1) indicating that in order to proceed with their application, a formal Council resolution from the City of Victoria supporting the CRD's intention to apply for, receive, and manage the grant is required.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek a resolution from Council to allow the City to partner with the CRD to apply for grant funding to support the fulfilment of a newly legislated housing needs report.

BACKGROUND

This April, new legislation enacted by the Province of British Columbia requires all municipalities and regional districts in BC to complete housing needs assessments by 2022, and every five years thereafter, to assist governments in understanding and responding to housing needs. The legislation requires local governments to collect data, analyse trends, and present reports that describe current and anticipated housing needs in their community. The province has initiated a funding program, administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), to support the completion of this work. Grants are available to regional districts to complete this work in coordination with their member cities to coordinate administrative efforts and achieve a regional understanding of housing need. The CRD intends to complete this work in partnership with several CRD municipalities including Victoria, and to apply for the regional funding. In order to be eligible for the grant, a Council resolution from each partnering local government is required. A letter outlining the CRD's intention, role, and request to the City is included with this report in Attachment 1, and the Program Description is included in Attachment 2. The deadline for applying for this funding is November 29, 2019.

ISSUES & ANALYSIS

By passing this resolution, and assuming successful receipt of the grant funding, the CRD will be able to oversee the application and administration of this funding and fulfilment of the grant terms, including submitting a final housing needs report to the province. This will allow the City to meet its legislated requirements at no additional cost and with reduced administration on the part of City staff. Staff will participate on a working group to ensure the needs of the City of Victoria are being met, and once this work is complete, will have a better local and regional understanding of housing need.

OPTIONS & IMPACTS

Option One (recommended): Adopt the resolution identified in this report.

This option will allow the City to partner with the CRD to apply for, receive, and manage UBCM grant funding to complete a housing needs report. By partnering with the CRD, administrative efforts will be shared, and Victoria will benefit from a regional understanding of housing need.

Option Two: Decline to adopt the resolution identified in this report.

This option will mean the City will not be able to participate with the CRD on the development of a housing needs report. The City would be required to fulfil this legislative requirement on its own, including administering and funding the completion of this report.

Accessibility Impact Statement

There are no accessibility impacts associated with the adoption of this resolution.

2019-2022 Strategic Plan

This work aligns with Strategic Objective Three: Affordable Housing, by identifying housing need in the City of Victoria.

Impacts to Financial Plan

There are no impacts to the financial plan with the adoption of this resolution.

Official Community Plan Consistency Statement

This resolution is consistent with the Official Community Plan's purpose to guide decisions on planning and land management.

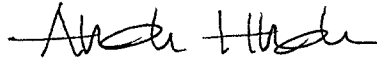
CONCLUSIONS

Adopting this resolution will allow the City of Victoria to fulfil its legislated obligation to complete a housing needs assessment in partnership with the CRD, and to access funding to complete this work.

Respectfully submitted,



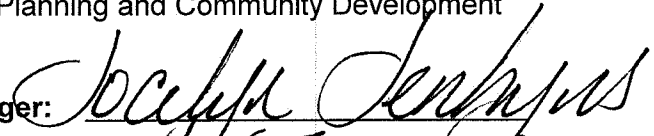
Lindsay Milburn
Senior Planner – Housing Policy



Andrea Hudson, Acting Director
Sustainable Planning and Community Development

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:

Date:


Nov 5, 2019

List of Attachments:

- **Attachment 1:** UBCM Housing Needs Reports Program Grant
- **Attachment 2:** Project Description