



Committee of the Whole Report For the Meeting of August 4th, 2022

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** July 21st 2022
From: Daniel Atkinson, Acting Fire Chief
Philip Bellefontaine, Director, Engineering & Public Works
Subject: UBCM Grant for Capital Region Extreme Heat Vulnerability Mapping Dashboard Project.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Endorse the City's participation in the Capital Region Extreme Heat Vulnerability Dashboard Project grant application through the Union of BC Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund,
2. Approve the CRD, as the regional lead (primary applicant) for the Capital Region Heat Vulnerability Dashboard Project, to apply for, receive, and manage the grant funding on behalf of the City of Victoria.
3. Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute any agreements related to a successful grant application.

That this motion be forwarded to the August 4, 2022 daytime meeting of Council for Councils consideration.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks Council support of a regional application submitted by the Capital Regional District to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund under the Extreme Heat Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning stream. The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund is a suite of funding programs administered by UBCM and is intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments and their residents in responding to emergencies. Although staff have already written a letter of support to accompany the CRD grant application, UBCM grants also require all participating local authorities to receive council resolutions.

The Capital Region Extreme Heat Vulnerability Dashboard Project will result in a coordinated, comprehensive understanding and approach to addressing extreme heat across the region. The two main deliverables are extreme heat vulnerability maps that use localized data to provide a detailed picture of vulnerability to heat in the region.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council support of a regional application submitted by the Capital Regional District to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund under the Extreme Heat Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning stream.

This project will serve multiple priorities related to emergency programs and climate adaptation across the region.

BACKGROUND

Extreme heat is a significant threat to the region which has had substantial impacts on the community. Extreme heat was identified as a hazard of regional significance in 2018 as part of a Regional Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA) Project undertaken by the Regional Emergency Management Partnership (REMP).

The following risks related to extreme heat were also identified as top climate risks for Victoria in the 2021 City of Victoria Community Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment.

- Hotter, drier summers leading to increased drought-like conditions and wildfire activity in the region and beyond, causing poor air quality and public health concerns locally
- More frequent extreme heat events leading to health impacts on vulnerable populations, causing increased morbidity and mortality
- Increasing extreme heat events and rising temperatures leading to increased cooling demand in residential and commercial buildings

ISSUES & ANALYSIS

The proposed Capital Region Extreme Heat Vulnerability Dashboard Project will provide a more detailed and comprehensive understanding of vulnerability to extreme heat in our community, which will inform future planning to address extreme heat. A regional approach is beneficial as it leverages and distributes capacity across the region through a coordinated, consistent approach.

This project will support the municipalities within the capital region implement priorities identified in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), which is the underlying framework for the modernization of BC's Emergency Program Act.

This project supports the integration of Extreme Heat Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Adaptation Planning through the development of an Extreme Heat Vulnerability Mapping Dashboard that provides a highly localized picture of vulnerability to heat in the capital region. This will involve collecting data such as additional social equity and health indicators, building typology, future topography, and ground-truthing our data with vulnerable populations in the community. This project will then use the local data and indicators to develop a heat vulnerability mapping index in order to better understand the locations of both populations and buildings that should be prioritized when planning to address future extreme heat events. This hazard index map will provide the basis for building risk awareness and setting priorities for implementation of Disaster Risk Reduction initiatives and risk communication.

The City of Victoria will directly benefit from this project and use the data collected to inform future resiliency planning. The City's Emergency Management and Climate Action Divisions have been collaborating on the City's response to extreme heat and have identified gaps in accessible data that would improve the City's ability to respond to and prepare for an extreme heat event. This data will contribute to our Citywide Hazard, Risk, Vulnerability Analysis (HRVA) and will support both

short and long-term planning to improve community preparedness to extreme heat from both a disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation perspective.

The Extreme Heat and Vulnerability Mapping Dashboard will inform future resiliency planning such as:

- Where to focus risk communications in advance of and during an extreme heat event
- Where to distribute coping mechanisms such as cooling centres and misting stations
- Where to focus new building retrofit incentives to improve access to cooling
- Where communities would benefit from increased tree canopy, new park space, or new amenities from future developments
- Applicants will be advised of the status of their grant application within 90 days of the application deadline of June 24, 2022 and the grant will be paid on completion of the project which must be completed within one year of notification of funding approval.

OPTIONS & IMPACTS

OPTION 1: That Council support the grant application submitted by the Capital Regional District to the UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (Recommended).

The CRD is the lead organization for the grant application, however, the City and other participating organizations will receive important benefits from the project that align with strategic priorities.

OPTION 2: That Council not support the UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund grant application.

Accessibility Impact Statement

The air purifiers and conditioners may be set up in cooling centres, reception centres, and / or group lodging centres which will be accessible to all people who require these services.

2019 – 2022 Strategic Plan

This project aligns with the City of Victoria's 2019-2022 Strategic Plan objective of Health, Well-Being and a Welcoming City, and specifically activities which improve the City's ability to respond to the impacts of emergencies.

This report and its directions are also directly aligned with to the Strategic Objective 6: Climate Leadership and Environmental Stewardship and specifically the implementation of the City's Climate Leadership Plan.

Impacts to Financial Plan

This grant does not require budget contribution from the City of Victoria. City staff will provide in-kind contribution through participating on the project team, participating in workshops and providing input, reviewing local data, and promoting with local networks. The 2022 CEPF grant application Detailed Budget outlines the in-kind contributions from the City of Victoria as well as partnering municipalities.

If successful, this grant money would be used for extreme heat vulnerability mapping and would supplement the existing work the City is undertaking around climate adaptation and emergency preparedness.

Official Community Plan Consistency Statement

Emergency Management activities align with the Official Community Plan goals outlined in Section 18 – Emergency Management:

- Victoria is prepared to deal with known hazards and emerging threats, to limit the adverse impacts of events, and effectively manage emergencies;
- Victoria is able to respond rapidly and effectively to all emergencies, including events with long-term impacts and recovery times; and
- Victorians can rely on significant local sources for food, energy, and materials to meet daily needs under emergency conditions.

This also aligns with the Official Community Plan goals outlined in Section 12 – Climate Change and Energy:

- Victoria and Victorians are more resilient to climate change and energy scarcity and costs.

CONCLUSIONS

More frequent and intense heat events pose a growing threat to human health and well-being. Vulnerability to heat varies over time and space, leaving certain groups at greater risk of both short- and long-term harm. If the grant application is successful, this mapping project will provide the region with a geographically specific picture of heat vulnerability, which will inform where interventions are most needed and enables prioritization of planning.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Patterson
Emergency Program Coordinator

Laura Berndt
Manager, Energy & Climate Action

Daniel Atkinson
Acting Fire Chief

Philip Bellefontaine
Director, Engineering & Public Works

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager

List of Attachments

- UBCM Grant for Capital Region Extreme Heat Vulnerability Mapping Application Form
- 2022 CEPF grant application Detailed Budget
- Letter of Support