

To: Fraser Valley Regional District Board  
From: Jennifer Kinneman, Chief Administrative Officer

Date: 2020-10-22  
File No: 1855-30

**Subject: Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program**

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## RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** the Fraser Valley Regional District Board direct staff to submit grant applications to the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program for the Lakeside Trail in Electoral Area H and a service building at the Vedder River Campground.

## STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services

## BACKGROUND

The Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program (CERIP) was developed by the Province of British Columbia in October 2020 to help communities recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic. CERIP aims to invest in capital projects that will immediately create new employment, re-employ laid-off workers, promote destination development, support urban and rural economic diversification and competitiveness, and strengthen cultural heritage.

## DISCUSSION

The CERIP program was launched on October 1, 2020, and will provide up to \$90 million through four streams: Community Economic Resilience, Destination Development, Unique Heritage Infrastructure, and Rural Economic Recovery. One hundred percent funding is available for shovel-worthy projects that do not exceed \$1 million. Eligible organizations may only submit two applications under CERIP. All funds will be paid by March 31, 2021, and eligible projects must start no later than December 31, 2021. The submission deadline for applications to CERIP is October 29, 2020.

The FVRD's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) reviewed the grant guidelines to identify projects that meet established criteria. Staff are recommending two shovel-ready projects for this grant opportunity, including the expansion of the Lakeside Trail in Electoral Area H and the construction of a service building with washrooms at the Vedder River Campground.

The Lakeside Trail is envisioned to be a 10km pathway running from the north to the south end of Cultus Lake. The trail is to be completed in phases, and several portions of the trail are already complete at the south end of the lake. Construction of the first portion began in 2017, thanks to the assistance of FVRD, BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, BC Parks, and other community partners. The next phase of construction for this well-utilized asset is planned for 2021.

FVRD acquired the Vedder River Campground (VRC) in 2017 from the Cultus Lake Park Board as a strategic addition to the Regional Parks program. The FVRD has made significant improvements and upgrades to the campground since that time, including a partnership with the City of Chilliwack to assist in the completion of its Rotary Trail that runs alongside the VRC. The campground has been growing in popularity, and continued investment in this asset will provide added value to the community and the FVRD.

## **COST**

There are no direct costs associated with this report. If the FVRD successfully obtains this grant funding, the proposed projects will be 100 percent funded through the grant.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Province of BC has initiated a grant funding program to assist communities in their recovery from the global pandemic. The CERIP program could assist the FVRD in offsetting costs for two projects already contemplated in FVRD work plans. The Lakeside Trail in Electoral Area H and a service building at the Vedder River Campground would greatly benefit from this funding, and both meet the criteria set by the Province.

## **COMMENTS BY:**

**Kelly Lownsborough, Chief Financial Officer/ Director of Finance:** Reviewed and supported.