



CORPORATE REPORT

To: Electoral Area Services Committee

Date: 2023-03-09

From: David Urban, Manager of Integrated Planning & Engagement

File No: 3400-01

Subject: FVRD CEDAR Network Update

INTENT

This report is intended to update the Fraser Valley Regional District Board on **the FVRD's Community, Education, Data, and Resources (CEDAR) Network**. Staff is not looking for a recommendation and has forwarded this information should Board members want more clarification or to discuss the item further.

BACKGROUND

The Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) had a hardcopy First Nation resource guide that provided contact and general information about these communities. This guide was static in nature which limited its usefulness and longer-term relevance since this information was changing more often than the guide was being updated. As a result, this guide was reconceived in 2016 as an online resource called the Community, Education, Data, and Resources (CEDAR) Network and launched the following year. The CEDAR Network is available for access at www.cedarnetwork.ca for staff and elected officials of the FVRD and its member municipalities, as well as First Nation organization staff and elected officials.

DISCUSSION

This interactive tool offers the same information as the previous guide and new features like interactive maps, search functionality, pronunciation assistance, an Indigenous library, and a glossary of terms and acronyms. Being web-based, some of the data updates come from automated federal and provincial website scraping, which is the process of extracting content and data from websites. This includes the names and terms of sitting elected officials and the community population. The rest **of the site's data** is managed manually. The most common types of edits include staff changes, website link updates, and managing the library. This platform is designed to allow for selective and incremental enhancements, without interruption to users.

The CEDAR Network is a powerful tool since it is a consolidation of information from other sources. For this reason, it is limited to the staff and elected officials of the FVRD and its member municipalities, as well as First Nation organization staff and elected officials since the FVRD is not the original source of this information.

Through feedback from site users, several improvements have been identified, so funding has been **proposed in this year's budget to offer new features and functions that could be incorporated**, such as:

- functionality to allow for a data change request
- allow users to identify their project footprint on the map and generate an Indigenous engagement profile
- incorporate treaty negotiation information from BC Treaty Commission
- **users' ability to edit their account** information
- interface upgrades to simplify the site structure and optimize existing functions

As well there are a few administrative improvements being considered related to analytic tools to assess how the site is being used and data management tools for the site administrators.

COST

The CEDAR Network improvements identified above have been reflected in this year's Regional Indigenous Relations budget (106) with a dollar value of \$50,000. A more accurate dollar amount will be known once the details of these improvements are refined, and as such, there could be the potential to incorporate additional features and functions for the identified dollar amount.

CONCLUSION

The CEDAR Network is a web-based interactive resource that consolidates First Nation information relevant to our region for staff and elected officials of the FVRD and its member municipalities and to First Nation communities and organizations. This site has not been updated significantly since its inception so improvements that further enhance it are being proposed this year, subject to budget approval.

COMMENTS BY:

Stacey Barker, Director of Regional Services: Reviewed and supported.

Kelly Lownsbrough, Director of Corporate Services/CFO: Reviewed and supported.

Jennifer Kinneman, Chief Administrative Officer: Reviewed and supported.