



## CORPORATE REPORT

To: Regional and Corporate Services Committee  
From: Kinga Williams and Melanie Jones, Accountants

Date: 2024-04-11  
File No:

**Subject: 2023 Grant Financial Accountability Reporting**

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### INTENT

This report is intended to advise the Regional and Corporate Services Committee of information pertaining to annual reporting from Electoral Area Grant-in-Aid applicants, Regional Grant-in-Aid applicants, as well as distributions from the Chilliwack River Valley Cleanup Grant and the Community Forest Grant in 2023. Staff is not looking for a recommendation and has forwarded this information should members want more clarification to discuss the item further.

### BACKGROUND

The FVRD has two Grant-in-Aid (GIA) programs available for not-for-profit organizations and community groups, which require annual reporting: Electoral and Regional.

Electoral Area GIA funding is available to non-profit community groups or individuals who provide a service or benefit to their Electoral Area community. As a condition of receiving funding that exceeds \$1,000, the recipient is required to provide the FVRD with a follow-up report that details the use of these funds, the outcome of the project or event, as well as the planned use of any funds still remaining at the end of the year.

Regional GIA funding is available to non-profit organizations or community groups based in the FVRD to support projects that provide a region-wide benefit. This funding is part of the FVRD budget process and does not exceed \$50,000 annually.

The FVRD has two additional funding streams from which project/program grants can be provided: the Chilliwack River Valley Cleanup Grant available for Electoral Area E and the Community Forest Grant available for Electoral Area B.

This report provides an update on the Electoral Area and Regional GIA funding issued in 2023, as well as distributions from the Chilliwack River Valley Cleanup Grant and the Community Forest Grant. Furthermore, an update will be **provided on outstanding responses following last year's Financial Accountability Reporting report**, which was presented to the Board on March 23, 2023.

## DISCUSSION

Through the 2023 Grant-In-Aid programs, there was over \$110,000 distributed to community groups and non-profit organizations throughout the region. These funds were provided by the FVRD Board for various applications with projects or a purpose to meet the following options:

- Promotion of volunteer participation and citizen involvement
- Use of net approaches/techniques in solving community challenges
- Activities/programs which are accessible to a large portion of the electoral area
- Start-up costs for new organizations or new programs
- Volunteer training opportunities

For all funding above \$1,000, applicants have provided their outcomes of the funding consolidated in this report.

### 2023 Electoral Area Grant-in-Aid Funding

Electoral Area	2023 Grants Paid	2023 Budget
Electoral Area A	\$5,270	\$5,270
Electoral Area B	\$22,800	\$37,480
Electoral Area C	\$16,452	\$25,000
Electoral Area D	-	\$5,000
Electoral Area E	\$6,500	\$10,000
Electoral Area F	\$7,500	\$17,500
Electoral Area G	\$11,000	\$12,500
Electoral Area H	\$15,500	\$18,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$85,022</b>	

The Electoral Areas have an annual GIA budget, which is set through the budget process. This budget considers the expected aspirations of the communities and must not exceed the calculated maximum value based on the net taxable values of the area. All funding requests must be supported by the Electoral Area Director and approved by the Board<sup>1</sup>.

Of the Electoral Area GIA applications, four were approved in December 2023 with funding being disbursed in January 2024; therefore, Staff have not followed up on funding use as the recipient could not have been reasonably expected to have utilized the funds by year-end.

In Appendix A, staff have consolidated the outcomes and pictures from the applicants of the Electoral Area Grants that were distributed in 2023.

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<sup>1</sup> Policy Review: staff have noted only one of the 2023 GIA were used for expenses not covered by the GIA Policy, which has been addressed with the applicant.

### 2023 Regional Grant-in-Aid Funding

The Regional Grant in Aid (GIA) Policy and associated processes were amended in January of 2021 and an annual application process was introduced. The rationale behind creating a new application process was to ensure a fair and transparent process for applications and to set a maximum annual budget which cannot exceed \$50,000.

The purpose of the Regional GIA Policy is to support registered non-profit organizations or community groups based in the FVRD with projects that provide a region-wide benefit. Applications are submitted and approved as part of the FVRD Financial Plan, with annual intake opening in May and closing on August 31 of each year.

In Appendix B, grant outcomes and pictures for the five applications totalling \$32,410 are included.

### 2023 Chilliwack River Valley Cleanup Grant

Recipient / Purpose	Amount
Bailey Landfill Cleanup Costs	\$1,251
Streams Foundation	\$4,000
Chilliwack Vedder River Cleanup Society	\$4,000
Chilliwack River Valley Resident's Association	\$2,950
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,201</b>

The FVRD received a one-time grant of \$200,000 from the provincial government to support the **FVRD's operational costs related to the Chilliwack River Valley** clean up of abandoned encampments, including tipping fees for refuse, removal of destroyed vehicles, and/or rental of containers to remove debris. **The FVRD's operational costs include providing Grants-In-Aid** to the community, and therefore, the FVRD has provided Grants-In-Aid to organizations whose projects align with the spirit of the \$200,000 provincial grant.

The grants noted in the table above were distributed late in 2023 and relate to projects scheduled for 2024. Upon completion of the projects, staff will include their project summaries in next year's report.

### 2023 Community Forest Grant

Recipient	Amount
Forager Foundation	\$9,973
Yale & District Ratepayers Association	\$3,920
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,893</b>

The Cascade Lower Canyon Community Forest (CLCCF) is a three-way partnership between the District of Hope, Yale First Nation and the Fraser Valley Regional District. Through its Community Forest Agreement tenure and its forestry business activities, CLCCF aims to create net profits on an

ongoing basis. When funds accrue to a level greater than those stipulated in the CLCCF Reserve Fund Policy, the CLCCF intends to distribute equal revenues and dividends to the CLCCF shareholders (Limited Partners) in accordance with the **Company's Incorporation Agreement and the Limited Partnership Agreement**.

Once funds have been allocated to the Limited Partners by the CLCCF, funds can then be distributed to non-profit organizations in accordance with the eligibility criteria set. The policy states that funds need to be disbursed as follows:

- 25% to the CLCCF Joint Legacy Fund
- 25% to Youth and Seniors
- 25% to the Regional Community at Large
- 25% to Arts, Culture, Heritage and Recreation

The 2023 grants were distributed from the **categories of "Arts, Culture, Heritage and Recreation"** (Foragers Foundation) and **"Youth and Seniors"** (Yale & District Ratepayers Association).

See Appendix C for the outcome of these grant funded projects.

### **Electoral Area Grant-in-Aid Funding Prior to 2023**

There were six successful events/projects totalling \$19,150 that were outstanding as at **last year's** accountability report. The FVRD received responses from four applicants, which are included in Appendix D of this report.

### **COST**

There are no costs directly associated with the writing of this report.

### **CONCLUSION**

The FVRD offers Electoral Area and Regional Grant-in-Aid (GIA) programs available for not-for-profit organizations and community groups. Twenty-five Electoral Area GIA applications were approved in 2023 for a total of \$85,022 and five Regional GIA applications were approved as part of the FVRD 2023–2027 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 1697, 2023 totalling \$32,410.

Furthermore, the FVRD has two additional grants from which project/program funding can be provided: the Chilliwack River Valley Cleanup Grant available for Electoral Area E and the Community Forest Grant available for Electoral Area B. In 2023, four Grants-In-Aid were distributed from the Chilliwack River Valley Cleanup Grant Fund, totalling \$12,201 and two Grants-In-Aid were distributed from the Community Forest Grant Fund, totalling \$13,893.

COMMENTS BY:

Beth Klein, Controller/Deputy CFO: Reviewed & Supported.

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

Jennifer Kinneman, Chief Administrative Officer: Reviewed and supported.