



## STAFF REPORT

**To:** Regional and Corporate Services Committee

**Date:** 2025-05-15

**From:** Kinga Al-Mubarak, Accountant

**Subject:** 2024 Grant Financial Accountability Reporting

**Reviewed by:** Beth Klein, Controller/Deputy CFO

Kelly Lownsbrough, Director of Corporate Services & CFO

Jennifer Kinneman, Chief Administrative Officer

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### RECOMMENDATION

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. 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 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 also provides funding from the Chilliwack River Valley Cleanup Grant which distributed funds for clean up projects in Electoral Area E.

This report provides an update on the Electoral Area and Regional GIA funding issued in 2024, as well as distributions from the Chilliwack River Valley Cleanup 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 April 25, 2024.

## DISCUSSION

Through the 2024 Grant-in-Aid programs, there was \$113,000 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.

### Electoral Area Grant-in-Aid Funding

Electoral Area	2024 Grants Paid	2024 Budget
Electoral Area A	\$1,700	\$5,270
Electoral Area B	\$5,700	\$37,480
Electoral Area C	\$19,800	\$25,000
Electoral Area D	-	\$5,000
Electoral Area E	\$5,000	\$10,000
Electoral Area F	-	\$19,000
Electoral Area G	\$15,000	\$15,000
Electoral Area H	\$17,000	\$18,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$64,200</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. Unspent funds are considered in the **determination of the next year's budget and taxation levels.**

Of the Electoral Area GIA applications, one was approved in December 2024 with funding being disbursed in January 2025; therefore, a request for reporting was not made.

There were three **successful events/projects totalling \$15,500 that were outstanding as at last year's** accountability report. The FVRD received responses from one of the three applicants.

Appendix A consolidates the outcomes from applicants of the 2024 Electoral Area Grants and those that were outstanding as at last year's accountability report.

### Regional Grant-in-Aid Funding

The Regional 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 at the end of August each year.

Grant outcomes and pictures for the seven applications totalling \$37,000 are included in Appendix B.

### Chilliwack River Valley Cleanup Grant

Purpose	Amount
Towing Abandon Vehicles	\$8,140
Hazardous Materials Cleanup	\$3,640
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,780</b>

The FVRD received a one-time grant of \$200,000 from the provincial government to support 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 operational costs include providing funding to the community; therefore, the FVRD has provided funding directly to organizations with projects that align with the spirit of the \$200,000 provincial grant. At the end of 2024, \$176,000 of the \$200,000 for Chilliwack River Valley Cleanup remains.

### **COST**

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

### **CONCLUSION**

The FVRD offers Electoral Area and Regional Grant-in-Aid programs available for not-for-profit organizations and community groups. Twenty-two Electoral Area GIA applications were approved in 2024 for a total of \$64,200 and seven Regional GIA applications were approved as part of the *Fraser Valley Regional District 2024-2028 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 1726, 2024* totalling \$37,000.

FVRD also provides funding from the Chilliwack River Valley Cleanup Grant which distributed funds for clean up projects in Electoral Area E, in 2024 \$11,780 was distributed to eligible clean-up efforts.