



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: ADM-BRD-485

From: Annette Andrews, Communications Manager

Date: March 21, 2024

Subject: Community to Community Grant Application 2024

RECOMMENDATION: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board authorize the submission of a grant application to the Regional Community to Community Forum Program for a grant of up to \$10,000 to be used to co-host a Community-to-Community Meeting with Sauleau First Nation.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

On March 9, 2023, the Regional Board passed the following recommendation:

MOVED, SECONDED, and CARRIED

That the Regional Board authorize Community to Community (C2C) Forum invitations to be sent to the following First Nation Communities:

- a. Sauleau First Nation*
- b. West Moberly First Nation*
- c. Doig River First Nation*
- d. Halfway River First Nation*
- e. Blueberry River First Nation*
- f. Kwadacha Nation,*
- g. Tsay Keh Dene Nation.*

The goal of a Regional Community to Community (C2C) Forum is to increase understanding and improve overall relations between First Nations and local governments. Forum events are intended to provide a time and place for dialogue to listen and learn, build on opportunities, support reconciliation efforts, resolve issues of common responsibility, interest, or concern, and/or advance tangible outcomes.

Starting in 2023, the C2C Forum Program was expanded to support the advancement of First Nation and local government reconciliation and relationship building through the development of agreements (such as protocols, MOUs, and service agreements), joint plans and/or strategies and the joint review of bylaws or policies to develop recommendations for amendments or new bylaws or policies. Up to \$10,000 was made available for these new activities.

To qualify for funding, C2C Forums must include direct dialogue between elected officials and/or senior staff of neighbouring First Nations and local governments and work toward one or more of the following objectives:

- Strengthening relationships and fostering future co-operative action by building stronger links between First Nation and local government elected officials and senior staff.

- Supporting local reconciliation efforts, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and shared capacity building.
- Developing or improving coordinated approaches to emergency preparation, mitigation, response and recovery, including recovery from the impacts of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Approved C2C Forum and Agreement topics include:

- Reconciliation & Relationship Building
- Emergency Management
- Service Delivery & Planning
- Economic Development
- Community Development
- Infrastructure Planning

Eligible applicants for funding include local governments (municipalities, regional districts or the Islands Trust) and all First Nations (Treaty First Nation, Band, Tribal Council or National Government) in BC are eligible to apply. Eligible applicants can submit one application per intake.

To qualify for funding:

- Activities must be completed within one year from the date of approval.
- The willingness of the elected officials/or senior staff of the partnering community to participate in the activities must be confirmed and provided in writing to UBCM.
- Activities must include direct participation by the elected officials and/or senior staff from both First Nation(s) and local government(s).
- The communities engaging in dialogue must be neighbouring; and
- Activities must comply with all applicable privacy legislation under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act in relation to the collection, use, or disclosure of personal information while conducting funded activities.

The Peace River Regional District (PRRD) and Saulteau First Nation have tentatively scheduled a C2C meeting for April 30, 2024. The purpose of the meeting is to come together in the spirit of relationship building, listening, learning, collaboration, and support in the realization of positive outcomes for communities in the region.

The gathering is intended to provide a space for participants to:

- Listen and learn.
- Welcome discussion about concerns for the region.
- Nurture pathways for collaboration and partnership in areas of mutual overlap.
- Reaffirm the existing Memorandum of Understanding.
- Consider the implications of the new Emergency and Disaster Management Act.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- Collaboration and Cooperation with First Nations
 - Advance the Development of Individual MOU's
 - Share PRRD Strategic Goals with First Nations to Identify Opportunities for Cooperation and Collaboration

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

Eligible expenses for the grant application include:

- Meals and snacks.
- Venue rental.
- Facilitation and consultancy services.
- Preparation of materials.
- Expenses related to local cultural protocols.
- Transportation between communities as required to attend the forum.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

If approved, the PRRD will be responsible for submitting a final report within 30 days of the C2C meeting. The final report will contain the following:

- Completed and signed Final Report Form.
- Financial summary.
- Attendance list, including name, title and organization of each participant; and
- Final agenda, session summaries or minutes and other documents/presentations.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

The deadline for the grant submission is April 05, 2024.

External Links:

1. [C2C Program and Application Guide 2024](#)
2. [C2C Program Details and Link to Application 2024](#)