

News Release



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CVRD receives \$1.54 million in senior government funding through COVID restart grants

DUNCAN, BC – The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) recently received a second contribution from the COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant for Local Governments, providing a total of \$1,543,000 to ensure the regional district can continue to deliver services during the COVID-19 pandemic recovery.

The funding can be applied towards a range of costs, including revenue shortfalls and facility reopening and operations. The amount granted to the CVRD and other regional districts in British Columbia was based on a formula that considered the percentage of rural (ie. electoral area) populations, and the additional costs of servicing remote rural areas.

“This is very welcome news for the CVRD, our residents and businesses, as we begin recovery efforts and look to strengthen service delivery across the region.” said Aaron Stone, Chair of the Cowichan Valley Regional District. “While we have done a great deal of work to focus expenditures in the region for 2021, this additional funding will be critical in our work to further key strategic priorities and continue to support a strong recovery in 2022 and beyond.”

The full list of COVID-related eligible costs includes:

- addressing revenues shortfalls;
- facility reopening and operating costs;
- emergency planning and response costs;
- bylaw enforcement and protective services like fire protection and police;
- computer and other electronic technology costs (to improve interconnectivity and virtual communications);
- services for vulnerable persons (e.g. persons living with disabilities, mental illness or addictions, persons experiencing homelessness or other vulnerabilities); and
- other related costs.

To ensure transparency on the use of funds, regional districts will report on the use of this funding in two ways. First, as part of the 2021 audited financial statements, the CVRD will provide a report on how the funds were allocated to various regional and local services. The second will be the inclusion a schedule within the annual report that will include the amount of funding received, the use of those funds, and the year-end balance of unused funds.

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For more information, please contact:

Kris Schumacher
Manager, Communications & Engagement
250.701.2631
kris.schumacher@cvrd.bc.ca