

THE CORPORATION OF THE  
**CITY OF WHITE ROCK**  
CORPORATE REPORT



**DATE:** June 12, 2023  
**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Candice Gartry, Director, Financial Services  
**SUBJECT:** City of White Rock – Growing Communities Fund Grant

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

THAT Council:

1. Receive the June 12, 2023, Corporate Report from the Director, Financial Services, titled “City of White Rock – Growing Communities Fund Grant;” and
  2. Direct staff to allocate the \$5.7M Growing Communities Fund grant funding as follows, and subject to eligibility approval from the province:
    - a) \$2M to affordable housing;
    - b) \$2M to the Community Hub; and
    - c) the balance of \$1.7M to the Pier Restoration.
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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to re-introduce information for consideration with respect to the provincial Growing Communities Fund grant, which had originally been introduced at the March 27, 2023, Finance & Audit Committee meeting.

A copy of the letter the city received from the province regarding the Growing Communities Fund (GCF) grant has been included as Appendix A. The city has been awarded \$5.7M to:

“...build required infrastructure and amenities rather than funding ongoing or operational activities.”

Options for the use of these grant funds are in the Introduction/Background section of this report.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION**

<b>Motion # &amp; Meeting Date</b>	<b>Motion Details</b>
2023-F&A-042 March 27, 2023	THAT the Finance and Audit Committee defer consideration of the following recommendation until the next meeting:  1. Direct staff to allocate the \$5.7M Growing Communities Fund grant funding as follows and subject to eligibility approval from the Province:  a. \$2M to affordable housing;

	b. \$2M to the Community Hub; and c. the balance of \$1.7M to the Pier Restoration.	CARRIED
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### **INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

The city has been awarded \$5.7M from the provincial government’s Growing Communities Fund (GCF). These funds are being provided to the city as a one-time grant with a principal objective to:

“...increase the local housing supply with investments in community infrastructure and amenities.”

Further, municipalities are:

“...encouraged to work closely with adjacent local First Nations, in recognition of the *Declaration on the Rights on Indigenous Peoples Act...*”

The grant funds:

“...should be limited to one-off costs needed to build required infrastructure rather than funding ongoing or operational activities.”

In other words, these funds are not intended to decrease property taxes but are to be:

“...incremental to currently planned investments and should accelerate the delivery of capital projects.”

These funds must be placed in a segregated reserve fund established by bylaw under section 188 of the *Community Charter*, for the capital and planning purposes of the GCF. This fund must remain separate for other reserve funds. The city will be required to annually report on how grant funds have been spent.

Eligible costs for these grant funds include:

- Public drinking water supply, treatment facilities and water distribution.
- Local portion of affordable/attainable housing developments.
- Childcare facilities.
- Municipal or regional capital projects that service, directly or indirectly, neighbouring First Nation communities.
- Wastewater conveyance and treatment facilities.
- Storm water management.
- Solid waste management infrastructure.
- Public safety/emergency management equipment and facilities not funded by senior level government.
- Local road improvements and upgrades.
- Sidewalks, curbing and lighting.
- Active transportation amenities not funded by senior level government.
- Improvements that facilitate transit service.
- Natural hazard mitigation.
- Park additions/maintenance/upgrades including washrooms/meeting space and other amenities.
- Recreation-related amenities.

Grant funds are also eligible to cover the below one-off costs so long as they are related to an above-noted eligible capital project:

- Costs of feasibility studies (including infrastructure capacity assessment).
- Other early-stage development work.
- Costs of designing, tendering and acquiring land (where it is wholly required for eligible infrastructure projects).
- Constructing eligible infrastructure projects.
- In limited situations non-capital administrative costs where these are necessary for the project such as adding staff capacity related to development or to establish complementary financing for local government infrastructure or amenities.

Further details regarding the provincial grant funding and eligible projects can be found in Appendix A.

Options for Top Strategic Priorities that Council could direct staff to apply these funds (in-full or partially):

- Develop a project plan to build a new Community Hub.
- Conduct community facilities needs assessment.
- Deliver a plan, identifying location, funding and partners, to build and affordable housing project.
- Develop and affordable housing strategy to support the creation of appropriate affordable housing options through future development.
- Harden West Beach for sea level rise.
- Reconstruct the remainder of the pier to climate adaptation standards and construct a community amenity wharf.
- Mitigate water quality issues from upland drainage.
- Conduct the Needs Assessment to address arts and cultural infrastructure and activate the Cultural Strategic Plan Objectives.

City staff recommend that the \$5.7M Growing Communities Fund grant funding be allocated as follows: \$2M to affordable housing, \$2M to the Community Hub, and the balance of \$1.7M to the Pier.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Growing Communities Fund grant from the provincial government provides the city with \$5.7M of funding as a one-time grant with a principal objective to “...increase the local housing supply with investments in community infrastructure and amenities.”

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

No specific legal implications to note.

### **INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS**

Partnership with the Engineering and Municipal Operations will be required to project plan the priorities and execute the plan(s).

### **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

2023 – 2026 Council Strategic Priorities inform the priority projects identified to be funded from the provincial Growing Communities Fund grant.

### **OPTIONS / RISKS / ALTERNATIVES**

The following options are available for Council’s consideration:

1. Direct staff to allocate the \$5.7M Growing Communities Fund grant as recommended by staff.
2. Direct staff to allocate the \$5.7M Growing Communities Fund grant to other Council Strategic Priorities.

### **CONCLUSION**

The city has been awarded \$5.7M by the Province to “...build required infrastructure and amenities rather than funding ongoing or operational activities.” These funds are not intended to reduce residential property taxes.

It is recommended that Council identify priorities for this funding.

Respectfully submitted,



Candice Gartry  
Director, Financial Services

### **Comments from the Chief Administrative Officer**

I concur with the recommendations of this corporate report.

Guillermo Ferrero  
Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix A Grant Funding Letter dated March 16, 2023, from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs - Growing Communities Fund