

DATE: October 4, 2018

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Rob Whitwham, General Manager, Community Services

SUBJECT: UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund
Emergency Social Services (ESS)

ATTACHMENT(S): None

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the City of Prince George SUPPORT the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Emergency Social Services grant application in the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to host and participate in the 7th Annual 2019 Northern Emergency Social Services Training (NESST) Conference.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to seek a City Council resolution in support of a UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Emergency Social Services grant to reduce costs to host and participate in the 7th Annual 2019 ‘Northern Emergency Social Services Training’ (NESST) Conference, April 12-14, 2019, at the Prince George Conference and Civic Centre. This grant will ensure registration fees remain low for our neighbouring local governments and First Nations communities’ ESS Teams, in addition to providing a high quality educational and training weekend for up to 20 members of the City of Prince George ESS Team – both staff and volunteers.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

This item assists in meeting the ‘Social Development’ section goal areas of *Safe Environment, Clear Identity and Pride, Supportive and Engaged Community*, and the ‘City Government’ goals of *Organizational Excellence and Effective Governance*.

BACKGROUND:

The UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Emergency Social Services grant supports local governments by building capacity to provide emergency social services through training, volunteer recruitment and retention, and the purchase of equipment. It is part of a larger funding program that is intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments and their residents in responding to emergencies. Funding is provided by the Province of BC and is administered by the Union of BC Municipalities.

This grant will support up to 20 ESS-trained CPG staff and ‘Volunteer PG’ ESS volunteers to attend and participate in NESST 2019, by covering their registration fees. In order to keep registration fees as low as

possible, this grant will also cover the venue costs of renting facilities at the Prince George Conference and Civic Centre. NESST is an annual two-day educational and training conference for ESS members within northern BC. It is hosted in a different northern community every year. It focuses on 'best practices,' networking, education, and concludes with a practical, 'hands-on' training scenario. The 2019 conference hosted in Prince George is anticipated to attract up to 200 attendees.

Given the previous two summers' evacuee events hosted in Prince George, NESST provides an exceptional opportunity to share 'lessons learned' with our neighbours within the larger northern half of the province. Occurring in April just before the traditional wildfire season commences will also provide networking opportunities and familiarization with other ESS teams that we may have to work closely with in the event of another evacuee event.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- UBCM funding in the amount of \$10,000.
- CPG in-kind staffing costs estimated at \$14,800 to assist in the planning, conduct and participation of NESST conference.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

The grant will enhance "best practices" and knowledge sharing between City of Prince George's Emergency Social Services Team and other local government and First Nation communities in the region.

A resolution of Council is required in order to apply for \$10,000 in UBCM funding for this project.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Rob Whitwham, General Manager, Community Services

REPORT PREPARED BY:

Adam Davey, Manager, Emergency Programs

APPROVED:



Kathleen Soltis, City Manager
Meeting date: October 15, 2018