

REPORT

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer Finance Department

To: Mayor Johnstone and Members of Council **Date:** November 6, 2023

From: Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer
Jacqueline Dairon, Acting CFO/Director
of Finance **File:** 05.1035.10

Item #: 2023-724

Subject: **Approval of Growing Communities Fund Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 8415, 2023**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council give three readings to the Growing Communities Fund Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 8415, 2023.

PURPOSE

To seek Council's approval of the Growing Communities Fund Reserve Fund Bylaw.

SUMMARY

To create a new Reserve Fund which is a condition of the Growing Communities Fund program from the Province of British Columbia.

BACKGROUND

The Province of British Columbia has provided a one-time grant of \$1 Billion through the Growing Communities Fund program to 188 of B.C.'s municipalities and regional districts, which they can use to address their community's unique infrastructure and amenity demands. Allocation of the grant was formula driven based on three components: 1) flat funding amount of \$500,000, 2) population size and 3) population growth between 2016

and 2021. As a condition of the funding, the grant must be placed in a segregated reserve fund established by bylaw, and is to be reported as a schedule on the audited financial statements annually until the funds are fully drawn down.

The City of New Westminster has been granted and received \$15,850,000 in 2023 as part of the Growing Communities Fund.

PRINCIPLE

The Growing Communities Fund Reserve Fund is established to receive the Growing Communities Fund (GCF) from the Province of British Columbia to provide one-time investments in eligible capital and capital planning expenditures as defined by the Province of British Columbia's Growing Communities Fund program and as outlined in Attachment 2.

Money received from the GCF, and including any interest earned and accrued, may be deposited into the Reserve Fund established under this Bylaw.

The usage of the Reserve Fund should be limited to one-off costs needed to build required infrastructure and amenities rather than funding ongoing or operational activities.

As a condition of the Provincial funding, funded projects will acknowledge the Province's contribution, and the GCF must be placed in a segregated reserve fund and be separate from other existing reserve funds. Annual reporting on the use of funds will be part of the City's annual financial reporting as required to ensure full transparency regarding the use of funds and the year-end balance of unused funds, until the funds are fully drawn down.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL LIAISON

Staff from the Office of the CAO and Finance participated in the evaluation of this proposal.

OPTIONS

There are two options for Council's consideration:

Option 1 – That Council give three readings to Growing Communities Fund Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 8415, 2023; or

Option 2 – That Council provide staff with further direction.

Staff recommends Option 1.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Growing Communities Fund Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 8415, 2023

Attachment 2 – Province of BC Growing Communities Fund Grant Letter to City of New Westminster

APPROVALS

This report was prepared by:

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This report was reviewed by:

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