

REPORT

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

To: Mayor Johnstone and Members of
Council

Date: July 8, 2024

From: Lisa Spitale,
Chief Administrative Officer

File:

Item #: 2024-437

Subject: 2024-2034 Canada Community- Building Fund Agreement

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve the 2024-2034 Community Works Fund Agreement between the City of New Westminster and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) as presented in Attachment 1; and

THAT Council authorize the Mayor and Corporate Officer to execute the Agreement.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to enter into the 2024-2034 Community Works Fund Agreement with the UBCM.

SUMMARY

The Administrative Agreement on the Canada Community-Building Fund in British Columbia (Agreement) has been signed and took effect on April 1, 2024. The tripartite Agreement between Canada, British Columbia, and UBCM replaces the 2024-2034 Agreement and provides the administrative framework for the delivery of the Canada Community-Building Fund (formerly the federal Gas Tax fund) to local governments and other recipients in British Columbia from 2024 to 2034.

The Canada Community-Building Fund provides predictable, long-term and stable funding to local governments in British Columbia for investment in infrastructure and capacity-building projects. Over the 10 years of the Agreement, British Columbia is expected to receive a transfer of \$1.6 billion in funding from Canada.

The Canada Community-Building Fund is guided by three national program objectives, which include productivity and economic growth, a clean environment and strong cities and communities. In British Columbia, the Canada Community-Building Fund is delivered through three program streams: Community Works Fund; Strategic Priorities Fund; and Metro Vancouver Regional Fund.

The Community Works Fund (CWF) is one of the funding streams of the Canada Community-Building Fund. The CWF allocates funding to all local governments in BC based on a per capita formula that includes a funding floor. Local governments may direct the funding towards eligible costs of eligible projects as set out in the CWF agreement and report annually on these projects and their outcomes.

The attached letter from UBCM explains the new Community Works Fund (CWF). The CWF provides allocated funding twice annually to all local governments in British Columbia for eligible expenditures of eligible projects. In order to receive CWF funding, local governments must sign a new Community Works funding agreement with the UBCM (Attachment 1).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

If Council agrees to enter into the CWF Agreement, the City will receive approximately \$318,576 annually for the first three years and then \$331,319 for 2027/2028 and 2028/2029. The funding can be used for construction, renewal or enhancement of infrastructure in a wide range of categories from local roads and bridges to broadband connectivity to community energy systems. A more comprehensive list of eligible projects is included in Schedule B of the attached CWF Agreement.

Staff will be bringing back to Council a set of principles and listing of recommended eligible projects as part of the 2025 Budget deliberation process.

OPTIONS

1. THAT Council approve the 2024-2034 Community Works Fund Agreement between the City of New Westminster and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) as presented in Attachment 1; and
2. THAT Council authorize the Mayor and Corporate Officer to execute the Agreement.
3. THAT Council give staff other direction.

Staff recommend Options 1 and 2.

CONCLUSION

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to enter into the 2024-2034 Community Works Fund Agreement with the UBCM.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: 2024-2034 Community Works Fund Agreement

APPROVALS

This report was prepared by:
Tamara Scott, Intergovernmental Relations Coordinator

This report was reviewed by:
Shehzad Somji, Director of Finance

This report was approved by:
Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer