

---

**To:** Mayor and Council  
**From:** Paul Gipps, CAO  
**Meeting Date:** April 21, 2026  
**Meeting Type:** Regular Council Meeting

**Prepared by:** Lauren Sanbrooks, Grant Funding Specialist  
**Department:** Finance & Administration

**Title:** Grant Application – Economic Trust of Southern Interior (ETSI-BC)  
**Description:** Application to ETSI-BC – Building Economic Development Capacity Program

---

### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT an application to the Economic Trust of Southern Interior (ETSI-BC) - Building Economic Development Capacity Program for up to \$35,000, be supported;  
AND THAT staff be authorized to apply for, receive and manage the grant funding on behalf of the District of Lake Country.  
AND THAT if successful, the 2026 Financial Plan be amended to include the receipt and expenditure of the grant funds.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Staff are seeking Council's support to apply to the Economic Trust of Southern Interior (ETSI-BC) under the *Building Economic Development Capacity Program* for up to \$35,000. This Program supports strategic investments to build economic capacity and support economic development projects that will have long-lasting and measurable benefits for communities in the Southern Interior. If successful, the funding will be used to support the development of an Economic Development Strategy for the District of Lake Country.

### **DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS**

The *Building Economic Development Capacity Program* is an annual grant funding program administered and funded by the Economic Trust of Southern Interior (ETSI-BC). The *Building Economic Development Capacity Program* provides non-repayable funding through scheduled intake periods to support strategic initiatives that enhance local economic capacity and deliver sustainable economic development outcomes for communities in the Southern Interior. The District is seeking funding through the Program under the "Large Scale Projects" type to create an Economic Development Strategy for the District of Lake Country. The "Large Scale Projects" are eligible for up to \$75,000 to a maximum of 50% of the project budget.

The Economic Development Strategy will assist in determining:

- Goals and priorities for economic development;
- Specific strategies through which those goals will be realized;
- Performance Measuring Strategy for assessing and reporting on the progress made;
- Implementation plan to prioritize the actions that will be taken in the short-term and long-term to implement the strategy. The Strategy will define the anticipated cost, potential funding sources and the lead or 'champion' for each action.

The plan will follow three phases:

- Project Planning;
- Research and Engagement; and
- Strategy Development.

In 2025, the District was successful with an ETSI-BC - *Building Economic Development Capacity Program* grant for the Lake Country Business Park Area Structure Plan.

**Applicable legislation, bylaws and policies**

**Council Strategic Priorities 2024-2026**

Economic Prosperity: On our own and in collaboration with our partners we will diversify Lake Country's tax base, and create a complete community with economic opportunities and economic prosperity for those who call Lake Country home.

**Official Community Plan**

Section 6: Economic Development

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None                       Budget Previously Approved     Other (see below)

The estimated cost for the Economic Development Strategy is \$75,000. A capital grant-dependent request of \$15,000 has been approved as part of the 2026 budget. If the grant application is successful in the amount of \$35,000, the remaining \$40,000 will be funded by the District, with \$25,000 from the existing operating budget and \$15,000 from the existing capital budget.

**COMMUNICATION**

This application was referred to internal departments.

**ALTERNATE RECOMMENDATION(S)**

1. THAT the application to the Economic Trust of Southern Interior (ETSI-BC) be referred back to staff for additional information as identified by Council.

Respectfully Submitted.

**Lauren Sanbrooks, Grant Funding Specialist**

---

**Report Approval Details**

Document Title:	ETSI-BC - Grant Application.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Apr 15, 2026

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**Matt Vader, Director Parks, Recreation and Culture - Apr 9, 2026 - 12:31 PM**

**Trevor James, CFO, Director of Finance & Administration - Apr 14, 2026 - 3:27 PM**

**Reyna Seabrook, Director of Corporate Services - Apr 14, 2026 - 4:17 PM**

**Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer - Apr 15, 2026 - 8:18 AM**

**Task assigned to Makayla Ablitt, Manager of Corporate Administration was completed by assistant Shara Glenn, Legislative and FOI Coordinator - Apr 15, 2026 - 8:30 AM**