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**MEETING TYPE:** Regular Council Meeting  
**MEETING DATE:** March 19, 2024  
**AUTHOR:** Darren Lee, Fire Chief  
**DEPARTMENT:** Protective Services  
**ITEM TITLE:** EMCR Contribution Agreement  
**DESCRIPTION:** \$40,000 EMCR grant for First Nations consultation required under the new BC Emergency and Disaster Management Act.

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## **PURPOSE**

To inform Council of the requirement for First Nations consultation included in the new BC Emergency and Disaster Management Act which replaced the previous BC Emergency Program Act in November of 2023. And secure \$40,000 in grant funding from EMCR to assist in the District of Lake Country in undertaking the additional consultation with Indigenous Governing Bodies.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the Mayor and CAO be authorized to sign the EMCR Contribution Agreement;  
AND THAT the 2024 Financial Plan be amended to include the grant amount of \$40,000;  
AND THAT staff be authorized administer the EMCR grant on behalf of the District of Lake Country.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The new British Columbia Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA) received royal assent on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023. This act replaced the previous British Columbia Emergency Program Act (EPA) and brings in comprehensive changes for emergency management. The province intends to provide additional details and implement EDMA throughout 2024.

EDMA places more responsibility on local governments which will impact the District of Lake Country (DLC) and the RDCO Regional Emergency Program. EDMA identifies the boundaries of treaty lands and coordination agreements to consider indigenous knowledge, traditional territories, and treaty areas in emergency management planning, risk assessments and decision-making. To assist local governments, meet this requirement, the province has provided a \$40,000 direct award grant on the condition that they sign the provincial contribution agreement March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

This funding stream is intended to support municipalities and regional districts in meeting their legislated requirements under EDMA. Indigenous Governing Bodies are receiving similar grants from EMCR to support their participation in the engagement process with local governments under EDMA.

## **DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS**

One of the key changes in EDMA includes the previously mentioned agreements with IGB's. Under EDMA, each local government within the RDCO is required to sign the EMCR Contribution Agreement by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

Staff from the five local governments within the RDCO have discussed coordination of consultation with the Indigenous Governing Bodies via the RDCO Regional Emergency Program. Coordinating consultation efforts would meet legislative requirements, build stronger relationships, and respect the impact this work will have on Indigenous Governing Bodies and their staff.

EDMA also requires:

- Incorporation of traditional Indigenous knowledge into risk assessments;
- Consultation on all aspects of emergency planning;
- Consultation on the use of certain powers when declaring a State of Local Emergency and declaring a Recovery Period; and
- Local authorities are expected to consult with every Indigenous Governing Bodies that acts on behalf of Indigenous Peoples who's traditional or treaty territory overlaps with the Regional Districts jurisdiction.

In addition to consultation, cooperation, and collaboration with Indigenous Governing Bodies, local governments are now required to:

- Prepare risk assessments for all foreseeable hazards and prepare emergency management plans informed by those risk assessments;
- This includes identification of risk and undertaking of mitigation actions for identified risks;
- Local governments are also required to develop business continuity plans that inform how essential services will be provided during an emergency; and
- Each local government is responsible for their own plans and may be required to submit reports to the province.

#### **APPLICABLE LEGISLATION, BYLAWS AND POLICY**

The applicable provincial legislation is the new British Columbia Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA) received royal assent on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

[Bill 31 – 2023: Emergency and Disaster Management Act \(leg.bc.ca\)](#)

The applicable local bylaw RDCO Emergency Management Program Bylaw which was last updated by the RDCO Board in 2019.

[Emergency-Program-Bylaw-No.-1444.pdf \(rdco.com\)](#)

#### **IMPACT ON INFRASTRUCTURE, SERVICES AND STAFF CAPACITY (if applicable)**

Initial assessment of EDMA indicates that significant new requirements for emergency management could be placed on the DLC and its staff. The DLC is a partner in the RDCO Emergency Management Program. Staff at the RDCO coordinate a range of emergency planning activities under this program and they are supported by a range of staff from the DLC.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None                       Budget Previously Approved     Other (see below)

The \$40,000 EMCR grant will be included in the DLC 2024 Financial Plan. The associated works and services would be 100% funded through this grant. It is anticipated that in-kind staff time will be required to undertake consultation, cooperation, and collaboration with the OKIB, WFN and ONA.

#### **CONSULTATION (Internal referrals, External Agencies, Committees, Stakeholders)**

Initial consultation with has been undertaken at the staff level amongst the five local governments within the RDCO. No formal referrals or consultation has been undertaken to date.

### **COMMUNICATIONS (if applicable)**

Not Applicable.

### **ALIGNMENT WITH COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

- Create and Support Opportunities for a Healthy, Active and Inclusive Community
- Create Infrastructure That Meets Community Needs
- Encourage Growth of the Downtown Core
- Ensure Sustainable Water Service Delivery for the Community
- Explore Opportunities to Engage With Regional Local Governments for the Betterment of the Community
- Honour Reconciliation by Strengthening Relationships and Inclusiveness With Our Indigenous Partners
- Identify and support improvements to the Development Process
- Implement the Agricultural Plan
- Preserve, Protect and Enhance Our Natural Environment
- Secure long term wastewater service delivery for our community
- Support Opportunities to Diversify Lake Country's Tax Base

### **ALIGNMENT WITH MASTER PLANS**

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|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Plan                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Official Community Plan                           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate Action Charter             | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2019               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing Needs Report                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Sanitary Sewer System Map                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Liquid Waste Management Plan Stage 1/2 Report | <input type="checkbox"/> Transit Future Plan-Central Okanagan Region-DRAFT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> McCoubrey Plateau Area Structure Plan         | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation for Tomorrow                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mobility Master Plan                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Master Plan                                 |

### **OPTIONS**

- A. THAT the Mayor and CAO be authorized to sign the EMCR Contribution Agreement;  
AND THAT the 2024 Financial Plan be amended to include the grant amount of \$40,000;  
AND THAT staff be authorized administer the EMCR grant on behalf of the District of Lake Country.
- B. THAT staff be directed to provide Council with a subsequent report with additional information.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Darren Lee, Fire Chief**

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**Report Approval Details**

Document Title:	EMCR Contribution Agreement.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment A - EMCR Letter to CAO.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Mar 14, 2024

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

**Reyna Seabrook, Director of Corporate Services - Mar 14, 2024 - 1:07 PM**

**Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer - Mar 14, 2024 - 1:42 PM**