

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

TO: Protective Services Committee

FROM: J. Zaffino, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: October 17, 2024

RE: **2024/2025 UBCM CEPF Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation Grant for two Fully Equipped Tiger Dam Trailers**

Administrative Recommendation:

THAT the Board submit an application for the 2024/2025 Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation (DRR-CA) Grant under the Union of BC Municipality's Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF)

THAT the Board supports a regional application that includes Lower Similkameen Indian Band, Village of Keremeos, and Town of Osoyoos.

Purpose:

To secure provincial funding for the purchase of two Tiger Dam flood mitigation system trailers and provide region wide training.

Reference:

UBCM DRR-CA 2024/25 Program and Application Guide

Business Plan Objective: *(Tie to current RDOS Business Plan)*

Key Success Drivers 2&3 – Focus on Customer Experience & Build a Sustainable Region

Goal 2.2 To meet public needs through the continuous improvement of key services

Goal 3.1 To develop a socially sustainable region

Background:

The Union of British Columbia Municipalities' (UBCM) Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation (DRR-CA) Program is designed to assist local governments in improving disaster preparedness and mitigating risks from natural hazards in a changing climate. In 2023, the RDOS was successfully awarded \$150,000 under this program to conduct a comprehensive Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Analysis (HRVA), which is currently in progress. In recent years, multiple freshet events have resulted in overland flooding across various communities, significantly impacting critical infrastructure, private properties, and public assets. While the Province typically supports the RDOS Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) during response phases, local governments are responsible for preparedness measures under

the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*. Securing the necessary tools to aid emergency response personnel in preparing for these events can substantially reduce the severity of flood impacts.

Currently, the RDOS supports homeowners by providing sand and sandbags through more than 30 sandbag centers across the region. However, sandbags have limitations, including a short lifespan and environmental concerns related to transportation, storage, and disposal after use. In contrast, the Tiger Dam system offers a more sustainable and cost-effective flood mitigation solution. The system is reusable, easily deployed and transported, and requires minimal staffing for setup and takedown, providing a more efficient alternative for flood response.

To enhance regional flood preparedness, the RDOS Protective Services Department, in partnership with the Lower Similkameen Indian Band, Village of Keremeos, and Town of Osoyoos, has prepared a regional application for \$600,000 to manage the funding, facilitate the purchase of two regional Tiger Dam trailers, and coordinate the related training on behalf of our partners.

Analysis:

The proposed project involves the acquisition of two fully equipped Tiger Dam trailers, which will serve as regional assets to enhance both preparedness and response efforts during freshet and localized flooding events. These trailers will significantly improve the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen's (RDOS) capacity to respond swiftly and effectively to flood emergencies across the region.

Currently, the Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) program maintains a limited supply of Tiger Dams, often resulting in delayed availability due to existing deployments or extended lead times. The addition of these trailers will ensure the rapid deployment of Tiger Dam systems, providing critical infrastructure protection and enhancing community resilience. By standardizing equipment and training, we will empower frontline responders, staff, and volunteers to confidently and effectively deploy Tiger Dams during flood events. This approach fosters regional collaboration, reduces administrative duplication, and saves costs by streamlining efforts across municipal and First Nations Governments.

The two Tiger Dam units will be stationed strategically for rapid deployment: one in Coalmont (Area "D") and the other in Kaleden (Area "I"). These locations will ensure efficient maneuvering to affected communities as needed. Furthermore, the RDOS will provide annual training to local fire departments and emergency personnel, enhancing their readiness to assist during Tiger Dam deployments.

Financial Implications:

The DRR-CA Grant will support up to 100% of eligible expenses through Category 2 – Non-structural activities stream for this project.

Alternatives:

1. Not apply for the Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation Grant for 2 Tiger Dam trailers
2. Not support the joint application of the Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation Grant for two Tiger Dam trailers

Communication Strategy:

If the application is approved by the Board and is successful in obtaining the necessary funding, the news will be released via an information release on the RDOS website and social media outlets.

Respectfully submitted:

"Gilbert Chan"

Select report author...

Endorsed by:

"Sean Vaisler"

Sean Vaisler, Manager of Emergency Services