

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** J. Zaffino, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** June 5, 2025

**RE:** Board Report - CEPF – RDOS Evacuation Plan Update

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### **Administrative Recommendation:**

THAT the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen submit a joint application under the 2025 UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Public Notification and Evacuation Route Planning Grant for \$160,000 and manage the grant on behalf of the District of Summerland, Town of Osoyoos, and Village of Keremeos.

### **Purpose:**

To secure Provincial funding to update existing Evacuation Route Plan to reflect the current risks, geographic constraints, and communication requirements of the region. The updated plan will enhance safety, preparedness, and regional coordination across all RDOS jurisdictions.

### **Background:**

The Union of British Columbia Municipalities' (UBCM) Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) – Public Notification and Evacuation Route Planning stream is designed to support eligible applicants in developing Evacuation Route Plans and/or Public Notification Plans to assist First Nations, local governments, and communities in preparing for and responding to emergencies.

In 2019, the RDOS successfully secured CEPF funding to develop a digital Evacuation Route Plan for 42 neighbourhoods and communities within the Electoral Area boundaries. This high-level plan identified control points, evacuation routes (primary, secondary, and tertiary), Emergency Support Services (ESS) locations, hazard zones, and other critical information. The plan has proven to be an essential tool in managing several emergency and evacuation events since its implementation in 2020.

Given the evolving nature of community needs and emergency response capabilities, the RDOS is now seeking additional CEPF funding to update and expand the existing plan. The updated version will place a greater emphasis on public communication and notification systems and will include distinct, community-specific evacuation and notification plans for the District of Summerland, Town of Osoyoos and Village of Keremeos. These plans will be integrated into the overarching RDOS Emergency Management framework to ensure a more comprehensive and coordinated regional approach.

**Analysis:**

This grant will enhance emergency preparedness regionally. It will support strategic opportunity to integrate new data and improve regional evacuation planning. A key focus will be strengthening the use of spatial data, refining evacuation routes, and improving public engagement to ensure plans are accessible, inclusive, and operationally effective.

**Key Objectives:**

- Improving GIS and spatial datasets to align with provincial data standards.
- Updating evacuation zones and route capacity assessments, particularly for wildfire, flood, and geotechnical hazards.
- Enhancing integration with public notification platforms between communities and ensuring alignment with BC Emergency Alerts.
- Developing accessible communication templates, tools, and public education materials to promote awareness and adoption of evacuation procedures.
- Promoting public engagement through town halls, community events, and coordinated outreach campaigns using newsprint and marketing materials.

**Financial Implications:**

The project is fully grant-funded and does not require any financial contribution from the RDOS Board or municipalities.

**Alternatives:**

The RDOS Board may choose not to support this grant application.

**Communication Strategy:**

Upon approval by the Board and successful receipt of funding, the RDOS will issue a formal information release through its website and social media platforms to announce the achievement.

**Respectfully submitted:**

"Gilbert Chan"

G. Chan, Emergency Program Coordinator

**Endorsed by:**

"Sean Vaisler"

Sean Vaisler, Manager of Emergency Services