

**DATE:** November 16, 2010**FILE:** 7200-20/Hornby Island**TO:** Chair and Directors  
Regional District Board**FROM:** Debra Oakman, CMA  
Chief Administrative Officer**RE:** Grant Funding, Towns for Tomorrow Program – Hornby Island Fire Hall

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**Purpose**

To seek approval from the board to apply for a Towns for Tomorrow Program grant for the construction of a new fire hall on Hornby Island.

**Policy analysis**

At its regular meeting of October 19, 2009, the board endorsed the option of constructing a new fire hall on Hornby Island.

Prior to being submitted to the funding body, the board must approve all grant applications.

**Executive summary**

The construction of a new fire hall on Hornby Island is identified on the strategic plans and objectives for the community services branch.

The Towns for Tomorrow Program provides grant funding for smaller communities in British Columbia with respect to meeting their infrastructure needs in a sustainable way.

Staff wishes to apply to the Towns for Tomorrow Program for grant funding towards the construction of a new fire hall on Hornby Island.

**Recommendation from the chief administrative officer:**

THAT a grant application be submitted to the Towns for Tomorrow Program in the amount of \$400,000 to assist with the construction of a new Hornby Island fire hall.

Respectfully:

***D. Oakman***

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Debra Oakman, CMA  
Chief Administrative Officer

### **History/background factors**

The structural integrity of the current Hornby Island fire hall was analysed by engineers engaged by the regional district. In the engineer's report of September 30, 2008, it was concluded that the current fire hall does not meet the BC Building Code structural requirements for a post disaster building. Based on the content of the engineers report and the input of local Hornby Island fire hall renewal project select committee, the board endorsed the option of constructing a new fire hall. This project is on the strategic plans and objectives for the community services branch.

The Towns for Tomorrow Program supports smaller communities in British Columbia with respect to sustainability and meeting their infrastructure needs and specifically provides funding for projects that address climate change and contribute to the overall health, sustainability, and liveability of communities.

### **Options**

1. To approve the request for submitting a grant application
2. To deny the request for submitting a grant application.

### **Financial factors**

The Towns for Tomorrow Program provides up to 80% of the funding for municipalities and regional districts for approved projects. For communities with populations under 5000 the province will cost share on an 80/20 basis, with a maximum provincial contribution of \$400,000.00.

Based on the estimated cost of \$2,108,500 for the project, a successful grant application may provide access to the full \$400,000.00 maximum.

### **Legal factors**

There are no apparent legal implications arising from this report.

### **Sustainability implications**

A successful grant application will assist the regional district in meeting the sustainability goals and objectives of the Comox Valley Sustainability Strategy. Specifically, Towns for Tomorrow Program funding would assist with objective 2.2.1: "New local government buildings and facilities over 500sq meters meet advanced levels of sustainability performance" and facilitate the development of operational energy savings, indoor and fire fighting water savings, and sustainable construction materials savings.

### **Intergovernmental factors**

The chosen site for the new fire hall is designated as an Environmental Protection Development Permit Area with the Islands Trust. The regional district will be working with the Islands Trust through the permit process.

### **Interdepartmental involvement**

Community services branch staff will complete and submit the grant application forms.

### **Citizen/public relations**

The application process for grant funding will not have a direct impact on the citizens of Hornby Island, however, if successful, the grant will provide recognized opportunities and cost savings.

Prepared by:

***J. Bast***

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James Bast  
Manager of Fire Services

Concurrence:

***I. Smith***

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T. Ian Smith, MCE  
General Manager of Community Services