



Making a difference...together

BRIEFING NOTE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2021

SUBJECT **AVICC RESOLUTION: COVID SAFE RESTART GRANT INEQUITY FOR ELECTORAL AREAS (Directors Holman & Howe)**

ISSUE SUMMARY

The adjusted COVID Safe Restart per capita amount provided to municipalities is greater than the per capita amount provided to electoral areas.

BACKGROUND

The Capital Regional District (CRD), as a regional district, received an allocation of \$1.421M under the grant. The provincial formulae was based on two per capita amounts: \$8.13 for rural populations and \$3.10 for all populations (including rural), and a flat funding amount. While the grant program takes into account the unique structure of regional districts as a service provider, with differing per capita amounts, the per capita allocation for Electoral Areas versus local municipalities is vast. The adjusted per capita amount provided to municipalities resulted in a much higher allocation for larger municipalities when compared to regional districts and rural populations. The ceiling limit also resulted in a reduced per capita rate for the regional population.

As a local service provider in the Juan de Fuca, Salt Spring Island, and Southern Gulf Islands EA, the communities were significantly impacted by COVID-19. Rural areas, such as EA and First Nations, with smaller populations received a smaller amount which has impacted their restart and recovery efforts for local government operations.

RECOMMENDATION:

Whereas the Capital Regional District, received a funding allocation of \$1.421M under the Safe Restart grant based on two per capita amounts formulae: \$8.13 for rural populations and \$3.10 for all populations, and a flat funding amount.

And whereas, the Safe Restart program takes into account the unique structure of regional districts as a service provider, with differing per capita amounts, there is a significant disparity between the per capita allocation for Electoral Areas versus local municipalities with a similar population.

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM advocate to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to provide additional Safe Restart Grant funding to Regional District Electoral Areas to equal the funding provided to local municipalities.

CONTACT

Robert Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer
Capital Regional District | Email: rlapham@crd.bc.ca | Tel: (250) 360-3124

ATTACHMENT(S)

Appendix A: December 2, 2020 Staff Report: COVID-19 Safe Restart Grants for Local Government

Appendix B: Letter dated January 14, 2021 from Colin Plant, Chair, CRD Board



Making a difference...together

REPORT TO GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 02, 2020

SUBJECT COVID-19 Safe Restart Grants for Local Governments

ISSUE SUMMARY

To provide recommendations on the allocation of the grant received by the Capital Regional District (CRD) from the COVID-19 Safe Restart Grants for Local Governments.

BACKGROUND

In September 2020, the Province announced joint Provincial and Federal funding to support local government operations as part of BC's Economic Recovery Plan. This plan identified a number of initiatives to help support communities and local governments in responding to COVID-19, including \$540 million summarized below.

The Safe Restart Funding for Local Governments includes:

1. Development Services: \$15 million
 - i. for work identified through Development Approvals Process Review
 - ii. application based
 - iii. details expected to be released before year end
2. Strengthening Communities: \$100 million
 - i. addressing the needs of vulnerable populations
 - ii. application based
 - iii. details expected to be released before year end
3. COVID-19 Safe Restart Grants for Local Governments: \$425 million
 - i. for local government operations impacted by COVID-19

This staff report details the CRD's portion of the \$425 million COVID-19 Safe Restart Grants for Local Governments, which totals \$1.4 million. The allocation letter from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is provided in Appendix A, which further outlines the Province's formula, eligible expenses, and reporting requirements. The funding is unconditional and was received on November 19, 2020. Appendix B details grant allocations for other Regional Districts (RD) and Municipalities across the Province.

Eligible Expenses

The Province provided the following eligible expense categories for the COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant:

1. Addressing revenue shortfalls;
2. Facility reopening and operating costs;
3. Emergency planning and response costs;
4. Bylaw enforcement and protective services like fire protection and police;
5. Computer and other electronic technology costs (to improve interconnectivity and virtual communications);

6. Services for vulnerable persons (i.e., persons living with disabilities, mental illness or addictions, persons experiencing homelessness or other vulnerabilities); and
7. Other related costs.

Program Stipulations

The funding must be fully allocated (not expensed) to services by December 31, 2021. Funding can be used for expenses in 2020 and beyond; there is no deadline by which the funds must be spent. The CRD is required to track and report use of funds. The Province has provided two reporting requirements:

1. Include how the funds were allocated as part of the audited financial statements.
2. Complete an annual report (as a schedule of the audited financial statements), to include funding received, how the funds were used, and balance of any unspent funds. The CRD will continue to provide annual reporting until funds are fully expended.

Province Funding Allocation Formulae for Regional Districts

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing sets the amount of the grant to each local government using various formulae. The grant for Regional Districts is based on three components: a flat rate of \$300,000, plus two per capita formulae; \$3.10 per capita for total RD population (with a cap of \$900,000) and \$8.13 per capita for total Unincorporated Areas (UA) within the RD. Table 1 summarizes the CRD calculations.

Table 1 – CRD Grant Funding Calculation per Provincial Formulae

Basis of Formula	Population	\$ Per Capita	Funding Formula	Funding Ceiling	Grant
Flat Rate					\$300,000
RD Population	412,220	\$3.10 ²	\$1,277,000	\$900,000	\$900,000
UA Population	27,211 ¹	\$8.13	\$221,000		\$221,000
Total Funding					\$1,421,000

¹ UA population includes JDF, SSI, SGI, and First Nation Reserves.

² Funding ceiling results in an effective per capita rate of \$2.18 for the RD population.

Population was derived through BC Stats and Statistics Canada data from 2018. Appendix C details population for each municipality and unincorporated area within the CRD from the same source data. Following the Provincial formulae, Table 2 summarizes the per capita funding to each unincorporated area.

Table 2 – Unincorporated Area (UA) Grant Funding per Provincial Formula

\$8.13 Per Capita	%	Population	Grant
Juan de Fuca (JDF)	19.5%	5,309	\$43,000
Salt Spring Island (SSI)	41.8%	11,374	\$92,000
Southern Gulf Islands (SGI)	17.9%	4,865	\$40,000
First Nation Reserves	20.8%	5,663	\$46,000
Total UA Funding	100.0%	27,211	\$221,000

Refer to Appendix D for the summary of the grant funding distribution to both Regional Services and Local Area Services.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Governance and Finance Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That staff allocate the \$1.4 million CRD COVID-19 Safe Restart Grants for Local Government in alignment with the Provincial allocation formulae to Regional Services and Local Area Services as summarized in Appendix D;
2. That the Regional Services allocation be distributed to the Regional Corporate Emergency Service Budget;
3. That the Local Area Services allocation be apportioned to the respective Electoral Areas where staff will engage EA Directors to determine allocation to specific services.

Alternative 2

The COVID-19 Safe Restart Grants for Local Governments report be referred back to staff with specific amendments.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications – Alternative 1

On March 18, 2020, Emergency Management BC (EMBC) issued an event task number for the COVID-19 pandemic and confirmed funding would be available to local governments for eligible emergency response expenses. Eligible expenditures incurred by the CRD have and will be claimed through EMBC. Reimbursement claims are based on a comprehensive set of guidelines with detailed eligibility requirements. Due to the overwhelming quantity of claims EMBC is processing, it is unknown to what extent or when funds will be reimbursed. The estimated total EMBC claim for the CRD is approximately \$300,000 for 2020 expenses.

Based on initial review and in alignment with eligible categories of the COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant, staff recommends Regional Funds be allocated to support CRD's regional emergency management service and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC, which includes support of Electoral Areas). Table 3 below summarizes the estimated 2020 expenses and grant balance to be carried forward into future years.

Table 3 – Grant Allocation for Regional and Sub-Regional Services

Service	Eligibility Category	2020 Estimated Net Impact ¹
1.025 Corporate Emergency	Corporate EOC costs	\$302,200
Balance Remaining for Future Years		\$943,800

¹ Excludes EMBC claims of approximately \$300,000.

The 2020 estimated impact is driven by incremental EOC operations and COVID-19 related costs including labour, vehicle and equipment rentals, operating supplies, computer and other

technology costs to enhance interconnectivity and virtual communication, protective equipment and facilities management. Staff will continue to consult with Electoral Area directors on impacts and allocation to specific Local Area services.

CONCLUSION

As part of BC's Economic Recovery Plan, the Province has made a commitment to help local governments and their recovery from the impacts of COVID-19. The CRD is receiving an unconditional grant of \$1.4 million through the COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant for Local Governments. The allocation is based on per capita, with differing amounts for the total CRD population and unincorporated population. The allocation of the grant to the specific service is at the discretion of the Board within the eligible parameters set by the province.

RECOMMENDATION

The Governance and Finance Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That staff allocate the \$1.4 million CRD COVID-19 Safe Restart Grants for Local Government in alignment with the Provincial allocation formulae to Regional Services and Local Area Services as summarized in Appendix D;
2. That the Regional Services allocation be distributed to the Regional Corporate Emergency Service Budget;
3. That the Local Area Services allocation be apportioned to the respective Electoral Areas where staff will engage EA Directors to determine allocation to specific services.

Submitted by:	Lia Xu, MSc., CPA, CGA, Finance Manager, Local Services
Concurrence:	Nelson Chan, MBA, FCPA, FCMA, Chief Financial Officer
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT(S)

- Appendix A: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Allocation Letter for Safe Restart Funding
Appendix B: Regional and Municipal Allocations for Safe Restart Funding
Appendix C: Demographics, Population Estimates, July 1 Capital Region
Appendix D: Summary of the Grant Allocation



November 2, 2020

Ref: 257735

Bob Lapham
Chief Administrative Officer
Capital Regional District
PO Box 1000
Victoria BC V8W 2S6

Dear Bob Lapham:

The provincial government understands the fiscal impacts that COVID-19 has placed on local service providers. To help address these challenges, in September the Province of British Columbia announced nearly \$2 billion in joint federal/provincial spending, including: \$540 million for local governments, \$418 million for community infrastructure, and \$1 billion for transit, TransLink and ferries.

The \$540 million for local governments was further divided into three funding streams. Two streams ("Development Services" for \$15 million and "Strengthening Communities" for \$100 million) will be application-based funding. More information on these funding streams will be forthcoming.

The third stream will provide direct grants to local governments. This funding stream is called the "COVID-19 Safe Restart Grants for Local Governments" and will provide up to \$425 million for local operations impacted by COVID-19. This funding will support local governments as they deal with increased operating costs and lower revenue due to COVID-19. It will also ensure local governments can continue to deliver the services people depend on in their communities. Eligible costs will include:

- addressing revenues shortfalls;
- facility reopening and operating costs;
- emergency planning and response costs;
- bylaw enforcement and protective services like fire protection and police;
- computer and other electronic technology costs (to improve interconnectivity and virtual communications);
- services for vulnerable persons (e.g. persons living with disabilities, mental illness or addictions, persons experiencing homelessness or other vulnerabilities); and
- other related costs.

.../2

As you may recall, during the early months of COVID-19, the provincial government required all municipalities to fully remit requisitions to regional districts by August 1, 2020, despite any shortfalls in municipal tax collection. This was designed to ensure regional district requisitions were kept whole in 2020. Because of this earlier action, the COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant for Local Governments will place a funding emphasis on municipalities. However, there is still considerable funding under this grant program for regional districts.

I am pleased to advise you that **Capital** is the recipient of a **\$1,421,000** grant under the COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant for Local Governments. This amount will be directly transferred to your regional district in the coming days.

Under section 36 of the Local Government Grants Regulation, the amount of the grant to each local government is set by Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The determination of this amount was based on a formula that applies to all regional districts. The funding formula for regional districts is based on three components: a flat funding amount plus two per capita amounts. The flat amount will be \$300,000 to each regional district.

The first per capita amount will be based on the total regional district population (rural and municipal). This will provide \$3.10 per person. There will be a funding limit on this first per capita amount. The limit is \$1.8 million for Metro Vancouver and \$900,000 for all other regional districts. The higher limit for Metro Vancouver is in recognition of their larger population. The overall purpose of these limits is to ensure that the very largest regional districts do not receive a disproportionate share of funding compared to smaller and mid-sized regional districts.

The second per capita amount will be based on the rural population of a regional district (i.e. the population outside the boundaries of an incorporated municipality). This second per capita amount will provide \$8.13 per rural population. This second per capita amount is in recognition of the additional burden on regional districts because they are the primary local service provider in rural parts of British Columbia.

This overall formula is designed to ensure that larger regional districts receive more money than smaller ones, but that smaller and rural regional districts receive higher per capita funding than larger ones. This is in recognition that small regional districts often lack a diverse revenue base and the economies-of-scale to easily restart their operations.

An example of the funding formula (for a regional district of 65,000 people) is provided as an attachment to this letter. If you wish, you can apply this formula to your 2018 total population of **412,220** and rural population of **27,211** to determine your total funding amount. 2018 population data was used because it is the last year in which we have complete financial and demographic data for each regional district.

Bob Lapham

Page 3

Before December 31, 2021, (a little over a year from this letter) the regional board must fully allocate the grant funds to the appropriate services. This allocation will be entirely at the discretion of the board. Ministry staff are available to assist regional district staff should they have any questions on allocation.

To ensure optimal transparency on the use of funds, there are two reporting requirements for regional districts. First, as part of the 2021 audited financial statements, the regional district must provide a report on how the funds were allocated to various regional and local services.

The second reporting requirement is an annual report on how the grant funds were spent in that year. This will be a schedule to your audited financial statements, under section 377 of the Local Government Act. The schedule will include the amount of funding received, the use of those funds, and the year-end balance of unused funds. This report may be consolidated for the entire regional district, rather than reporting on a service-by-service level. Your regional district must continue to annually report on the use of grant money until the funds are fully drawn down.

If you have questions or comments regarding this letter, please feel free to contact Jennifer Richardson, Grants Analyst, Local Government Infrastructure and Finance Branch, by email at: Jennifer.Richardson@gov.bc.ca, or by phone at: 778-698-3243.

The provincial government welcomes this opportunity to support COVID-19 restart and recovery throughout British Columbia. We believe that this funding will contribute to the long-term recovery of local governments who are both critical service providers and crucial drivers in the British Columbia economy.

Sincerely,



Kaye Krishna
Deputy Minister

Attachment

pc: Jennifer Richardson, Grants Analyst, Local Government Infrastructure and Finance Branch
Nelson Chan, Chief Financial Officer, Capital Regional District

Attachment 1: Example Calculation for a Regional District with 65,000 People

Rockridge Regional District

Variables:

	Population	Per Capital Amount	Funding Limit	Flat Funding Amount
Total RD	65,000	\$3.10	\$900,000	n/a
Rural Part of RD	20,000	\$8.13	n/a	n/a
Other	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$300,000

Calculation:

	A	B	C=AxB	D	E=min(C or D)
Cost Item	Population	Per Capital Amount	Pop-Based Funding	Ceiling	Funding
Total Population	65,000	\$3.10	201,500	900,000	201,500
Rural Population	20,000	\$8.13	162,600	n/a	162,600
Flat Amount					300,000

TOTAL

664,100

Funding is based on a flat amount (\$300,000) plus two per capita amounts.

One per capita amount is based on total RD population times \$3.10 per person.
This first per capita amount is subject to a funding ceiling of \$0.9M (or \$1.8M for Metro).
In the above example, this amount equals **\$201,500**.

The second per capital amount is based on the rural population (i.e. outside municipal boundaries) times \$8.13 per person. In the above example, this equals **\$162,600**.

The total funding is the sum of these three amounts. In the above example, this equals **\$664,100**.

The RD population data is for 2018 (from BC Stats as at Oct 1, 2020)
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/data/statistics/people-population-community/population/population-estimates>
"Municipal and sub-provincial areas population, 2011 to 2019.xls"

Summary of Regional District Allocations: COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant

Regional Districts	Total Funding
Alberni-Clayoquot	485,000
Bulkley-Nechako	583,000
Capital	1,421,000
Cariboo	837,000
Central Coast	340,000
Central Kootenay	760,000
Central Okanagan	1,107,000
Columbia Shuswap	645,000
Comox Valley	723,000
Cowichan Valley	903,000
East Kootenay	641,000
Fraser Valley	1,362,000
Fraser-Fort George	747,000
Kitimat-Stikine	559,000
Kootenay Boundary	489,000
Metro Vancouver	2,325,000
Mount Waddington	367,000
Nanaimo	1,169,000
North Coast	390,000
North Okanagan	741,000
Okanagan-Similkameen	773,000
Peace River	700,000
Qathet	424,000
Squamish-Lillooet	502,000
Strathcona	539,000
Sunshine Coast	521,000
Thompson-Nicola	947,000

Demographics

Population Estimates, July 1st Revised, Capital Region



	2011 Pop'n Estimate	2016 Pop'n Estimate	2017 Pop'n Estimate	2018 Pop'n Estimate	2019 Pop'n Estimate	2020 Pop'n Estimate	% Growth 16-18
Central Saanich	16,134	17,464	17,722	18,011	18,089		3.6%
Colwood	16,440	17,665	17,941	18,321	18,867		6.8%
Esquimalt	16,594	18,533	18,469	18,758	18,716		1.0%
Highlands	2,167	2,320	2,391	2,437	2,481		6.9%
Langford	30,156	37,234	39,002	40,557	42,653		14.6%
Metchosin	4,859	4,894	4,989	5,117	5,168		5.6%
North Saanich	11,195	11,605	11,618	11,745	11,876		2.3%
Oak Bay	18,164	18,660	18,466	18,564	18,568		-0.5%
Saanich	111,818	119,211	120,258	121,055	122,173		2.5%
Sidney	11,252	11,991	12,097	12,172	12,235		2.0%
Sooke	11,702	13,608	14,013	14,300	14,657		7.7%
Victoria	82,348	90,159	91,288	92,689	94,005		4.3%
View Royal	9,568	10,865	11,163	11,283	11,567		6.5%
Unincorporated Areas	25,220	26,353	26,859	27,211	27,456		4.2%
Juan De Fuca E.A.	4,536	5,066	5,200	5,309	5,363		5.9%
Salt Spring Is. E.A.	10,345	10,883	11,073	11,374	11,592		6.5%
Southern Gulf Is. E.A.	4,869	4,836	4,902	4,865	4,888		1.1%
First Nation Reserves	5,470	5,568	5,684	5,663	5,613		0.8%
CAPITAL REGION	367,617	400,562	406,276	412,220	418,511		4.5%

Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0142-01 and 17-10-0139-01

Factsheet Updated: Nov 2020



Making a difference...together

625 Fisgard St. PO Box 1000 Victoria BC V8W 2S6

250.360.3160

www.crd.bc.ca

Summary of Municipal Allocations: COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant

Municipalities	Total Funding	Municipalities	Total Funding	Municipalities	Total Funding
100 Mile House	752,000	Kamloops	6,680,000	Port Moody	4,647,000
Abbotsford	8,338,000	Kaslo	480,000	Pouce Coupe	426,000
Alert Bay	315,000	Kelowna	7,884,000	Powell River	2,928,000
Anmore	882,000	Kent	1,826,000	Prince George	6,110,000
Armstrong	1,808,000	Keremeos	659,000	Prince Rupert	2,799,000
Ashcroft	659,000	Kimberley	2,087,000	Princeton	1,013,000
Barriere	730,000	Kitimat	2,176,000	Qualicum Beach	2,359,000
Belcarra	380,000	Ladysmith	2,343,000	Queen Charlotte	435,000
Bowen Island	1,273,000	Lake Country	2,947,000	Quesnel	2,503,000
Burnaby	9,827,000	Lake Cowichan	1,158,000	Radium Hot Springs	459,000
Burns Lake	732,000	Langford	4,878,000	Revelstoke	2,105,000
Cache Creek	481,000	Langley (C)	4,151,000	Richmond	9,331,000
Campbell River	4,618,000	Langley (D)	7,608,000	Rossland	1,257,000
Canal Flats	381,000	Lantzville	1,220,000	Saanich	7,453,000
Castlegar	2,184,000	Lillooet	880,000	Salmo	533,000
Central Saanich	3,455,000	Lions Bay	603,000	Salmon Arm	3,598,000
Chase	879,000	Logan Lake	816,000	Sayward	268,000
Chetwynd	955,000	Lumby	764,000	Sechelt	2,563,000
Chilliwack	6,488,000	Lytton	248,000	Sechelt (IG)	387,000
Clearwater	894,000	Mackenzie	1,244,000	Sicamous	927,000
Clinton	373,000	Maple Ridge	6,417,000	Sidney	2,758,000
Coldstream	2,623,000	Masset	429,000	Silverton	231,000
Colwood	3,476,000	McBride	366,000	Slocan	262,000
Cornox	3,067,000	Merritt	2,005,000	Smithers	1,656,000
Coquitlam	8,293,000	Metochosin	1,540,000	Sooke	2,981,000
Courtenay	4,149,000	Midway	377,000	Spallumcheen	1,604,000
Cranbrook	3,765,000	Mission	4,964,000	Sparwood	1,282,000
Creston	1,648,000	Montrose	485,000	Squamish	3,760,000
Cumberland	1,312,000	Nakusp	692,000	Stewart	366,000
Dawson Creek	2,793,000	Nanaimo	6,693,000	Summerland	2,724,000
Delta	7,059,000	Nelson	2,613,000	Sun Peaks	387,000
Duncan	1,570,000	New Denver	323,000	Surrey	14,769,000
Elkford	938,000	New Hazelton	357,000	Tahsis	249,000
Enderby	1,062,000	New Westminster	6,052,000	Taylor	644,000
Esquimalt	3,538,000	North Cowichan	4,418,000	Telkwa	602,000
Fernie	1,597,000	North Saanich	2,711,000	Terrace	2,728,000
Fort St. James	666,000	North Vancouver (D)	6,484,000	Tofino	822,000
Fort St. John	3,778,000	North Vancouver (C)	5,434,000	Trail	2,115,000
Fraser Lake	485,000	Northern Rockies	1,507,000	Tumbler Ridge	827,000
Fruitvale	787,000	Oak Bay	3,589,000	Ucluelet	764,000
Gibsons	1,512,000	Oliver	1,591,000	Valemount	501,000
Gold River	557,000	Osoyoos	1,539,000	Vancouver	16,371,000
Golden	1,263,000	Parksville	2,861,000	Vanderhoof	1,438,000
Grand Forks	1,359,000	Peachland	1,650,000	Vernon	4,997,000
Granisle	264,000	Pemberton	987,000	Victoria	6,522,000
Greenwood	381,000	Penticton	4,711,000	View Royal	2,613,000
Harrison Hot Springs	675,000	Pitt Meadows	3,656,000	Warfield	710,000
Hazelton	268,000	Port Alberni	3,536,000	Wells	241,000
Highlands	897,000	Port Alice	386,000	West Kelowna	4,602,000
Hope	1,833,000	Port Clements	259,000	West Vancouver	5,068,000
Houston	1,066,000	Port Coquitlam	5,622,000	Whistler	2,685,000
Hudson's Hope	499,000	Port Edward	317,000	White Rock	3,769,000
Invermere	1,181,000	Port Hardy	1,376,000	Williams Lake	2,618,000
Jumbo Glacier	-	Port McNeill	888,000	Zeballos	200,000

Appendix D: Summary of the Grant Allocation

Total Funding	Allocated Funding
Regional District Services	\$1,200,000
First Nation Services	\$46,000
Allocation for Regional Services	\$1,246,000
Juan de Fuca Services	\$43,000
Salt Spring Island Services	\$92,000
Southern Gulf Islands Services	\$40,000
Allocation for Local Area Services	\$175,000
Total COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant	\$1,421,000

January 14, 2021

File: 1850-20

The Honourable John Horgan
Premier, Province of British Columbia
Room 156 Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4
Via email: premier@gov.bc.ca

Dear Premier:

RE: CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT: SAFE RESTART GRANTS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

At the December 9, 2020 meeting of the Capital Regional District (CRD), members of the CRD Board passed a motion recommending that the CRD Board Chair, write and meet with the Premier and Minister responsible to advocate for additional funding for the COVID-19 Safe Restart Grants for Local Government for Electoral Areas (EA) and First Nations.

The CRD, as a regional district, received an allocation of \$1.421M under the grant. The provincial formulae was based on two per capita amounts: \$8.13 for rural populations and \$3.10 for all populations (including rural), and a flat funding amount. While the grant program takes into account the unique structure of regional districts as a service provider, with differing per capita amounts, the per capita allocation for EA versus local municipalities is vast. The adjusted per capita amount provided to municipalities resulted in a much higher allocation for larger municipalities when compared to regional districts and rural populations. The ceiling limit also resulted in a reduced per capita rate for the regional population.

As a local service provider in the Juan de Fuca, Salt Spring Island, and Southern Gulf Islands EA, the communities were significantly impacted by COVID-19. We recognize that regional districts were kept whole due to tax requisitions in 2020, and as such there is a greater emphasis on municipalities. However, rural areas, such as EA and First Nations, with smaller populations received a smaller amount which has impacted their restart and recovery efforts for local government operations.

The CRD Board requests that the province consider providing equal funding to regional districts and municipalities.

Yours sincerely,



Colin Plant
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

cc: CRD Board
Robert Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD

