

UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund 2021

Emergency Operations Centre Grant

Regional Emergency Communication Enhancements

Emergency Operations Centers and Emergency Communications: Emergency Communications describes communications equipment, plans and systems used in operation of Emergency Operation Centres (EOC) for response to emergency events. The same equipment and system capacity is also used as alternative or redundant communications for responders in the event of regular telecommunications outages, which are frequently encountered during emergency events.

The current Cowichan Emergency Communications program: The CVRD supports emergency communications by way of a regional “Disaster Radio” program, a 25-person volunteer communications team, amateur radio stations, radio repeater sites, a regional communications plan, a deployable satellite phone and a small cache of spare two-way radio equipment. The Emergency Communications Program of the Emergency Program service is supported by a .5 FTE Emergency Telecommunication Coordinator.

Intent of the UBCM funding: The intent of this funding stream is to support eligible applicants to build local capacity through the purchase of equipment and supplies required to maintain or improve Emergency Operations Centres (EOC) and to enhance EOC capacity through training and exercises. Ongoing operational costs are not eligible. Communications systems are specifically eligible under the EOC grant stream to build EOC capacity. All local governments (municipalities and regional districts) and all First Nations (bands and Treaty First Nations) in BC are eligible to apply.

Regional approach: Each applicant is eligible for up to \$25,000, however the CEPF EOC grant allows for a regional approach whereby the maximum funding available is based on the number of eligible applicants included in the regional application. The CVRD proposes a regional grant approach in the total amount of \$200,000 with the following as partners: City of Duncan, Cowichan Tribes, Cowichan Valley Regional District, Malahat First Nation, Municipality of North Cowichan, Town of Ladysmith, Town of Lake Cowichan, and Stz’uminus First Nation.

Cowichan EOC Grant Proposal: A combined grant would be used to enhance regional emergency communications capacity by expanding and upgrading a dedicated EOC radio network, upgrading existing amateur radio installations, modernizing the existing regional disaster radio program (Equipment is 20+ years old), continuing to build volunteer capacity (training, equipment), as well as increasing the number of deployable communications, computer and power kits for use in primary, secondary, remote or ad-hoc EOCs. Additionally, the grant application will request funding to meet specific EOC equipment needs. Equipment upgrades on this scale, with a far-reaching impact and scalability, would likely be unavailable without grant funding.

The objectives would be as follows:

- 1) Increase two-way radio capacity to enhance secure EOC to EOC communications in the Cowichan area by adding a radio repeater to increase coverage; and upgrading existing radio repeaters. This will also increase responder communications capacity.
- 2) Modernize and expand the “disaster radio” program by upgrading each individual kit with a digital ready radio; add 5 new disaster radio kits and distribute to partner organizations or

agencies. The “Disaster Radio” program provides a dedicated emergency two-way radio to enable emergency communications between emergency response agencies, local governments and First Nation in the event of disaster. Disaster radios are stationed at EOCs, fire halls, police stations, ambulance stations, local government offices, First Nations office, etc.

- 3) Increase number of deployable communications assets such as an MSAT satellite telephone (+1), EOC Laptop and Computer Kit (+4 kits), EOC Power Kit (+5). These kits will be able to be deployed to any emergency program partner as required.
- 4) Equip EOC and emergency communications volunteers with personal protective equipment and radios (+42 radios).
- 5) Purchase and replenish EOC supplies (ICS Vests, EOC form kits, EOC signage)
- 6) Provide all partner municipalities, First Nations, and agencies with training to build knowledge and experience with the regional emergency communications systems

FOR ACTION: Each interested municipality and First Nation must resolve *“for the Cowichan Valley Regional District to apply for, receive, and manage the UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Emergency Operations Centre grant funding up to \$25,000 on behalf of insert Municipality or First Nation name”*.

2021 EOC Regional Communications Modernization

Proposed Project Budget

Project Phase	Description	North Zone		South Zone		West Zone		Central Zone (North of River)		Central Zone (South of River)		ALL ZONES				TOTAL (net of tax)	CEPF Portion	Partners	CVRD In-Kind	Comments
		North Oyster, Stz'munis, Town of Ladysmith, Thetis Island, Areas G, H, I	Mill Bay, Malahat, Shawnigan Lake, Cobble Hill, Areas A, B, C	Town of Lake Cowichan, Area F, H	North Cowichan, City of Duncan, Halalt, Cowichan Tribes, Area D, E	Municipality of North Cowichan, City of Duncan, Cowichan Tribes, Area D, E	Volunteer Resources	Regional Resources	#	Cost	#	Cost								
Quantity & Cost		#	Cost	#	Cost	#	Cost	#	Cost	#	Cost	#	Cost	#	Cost					
EOC Repeater System Enhancement & Expansion	VHF Repeater (Digital Capablty)													1	\$13,500	\$13,500	\$13,500			
	Microwave Equipment (Antennas)													6	\$5,100	\$5,100	\$5,100			
	Microwave Equipment (Radios)													6	\$16,650	\$16,650	\$16,650			
	Repeater System Design and Installation													1	\$12,500	\$12,200	\$12,200			
	Amateur Radio Repeater Batteries													1	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000			
	Project Management & Installation															\$7,500	\$0		\$7,500	ETC Staff Time
"Disaster Radio" Revitalization Program	Disaster Radio Replacements - VHF Radio	15	\$595	15	\$595	10	\$595	17	\$595	8	\$595			65	\$37,375	\$37,375	\$37,375			
	Disaster Kit Refurbishment - Misc Parts													1	1000	\$1,000	\$1,000			
Deployable Kits - EOC Satellite Communications	MSAT Satellite Telephone - Portable Kit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7725	\$7,725	\$7,725			
Deployable Kits - EOC Computers and Networking	Laptop (with Office)	4	6000	4	6000	4	6000	-	-	4	6000	-	-	-	-	\$24,000	\$24,000			
	Network Switch including cables	1	300	1	300	1	300	1	300	1	300	-	-	-	-	\$1,500	\$1,500			
	Router with LTE capability	1	275	1	275	1	275	1	275	1	275					\$1,375	\$1,375			
	Phone Sets	2	40	2	40	2	40	2	40	2	40	-	-	-	-	\$200	\$200			
	Equipment Storage - Pelican Cases	1	700	1	700	1	700	1	700	1	700	-	-	-	-	\$3,500	\$3,500			
Deployable Kits - EOC Power resources	Power Pack + Solar Panels	1	1200	1	1200	1	1200	1	1200	1	1200	-	-	-	-	\$6,000	\$6,000			
	Portable Generators (Gasoline)	1	1295	1	1295	1	1295	1	1295	1	1295	-	-	-	-	\$6,475	\$6,475			
	Power Cords, power bars, extension cords	1	250	1	250	1	250	1	250	1	250	-	-	-		\$1,250	\$1,250			
EOC Supplies	EOC Vests, Signage, Display Boards	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5,500.00	-	-	-	-	-	10,000.00	\$15,500	\$15,500			
Equip Volunteers	Volunteer Radios - ESS & ECT Teams	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	24900	-	-	\$24,900	\$24,900			
	Volunteer Jackets - ECT Team	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	6675	-	-	\$6,675	\$6,675			
EOC Communications Training	EOC Communications Training													\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	Staff Time	
TOTAL			10,655		10,655		10,655		4,655		10,655		31,575		118,850	\$227,425	\$199,925			