

## UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund

### Emergency Support Services (ESS) Grant – Regional Approach for 2022

#### What is ESS

Under the Emergency Program Act, municipalities and regional districts are responsible for responding to emergencies in their areas, including providing Emergency Support Services (ESS). ESS are services provided on a short-term basis (generally 72 hours) to preserve the emotional and physical well-being of evacuees in an emergency or disaster. ESS includes such services as food, lodging, clothing, reuniting families, emotional support and other specialized services as required. ESS may use reception centres and group lodging as needed in larger events where multiple families are evacuated.

#### The Current Cowichan ESS Program

The CVRD administers and operates the ESS program for all local authorities and several First Nations in the Cowichan Area. There are several primary reception and secondary centres in the Cowichan area. The capacity and resiliency of these centres vary widely.

#### Intent of the UBCM Funding

To support eligible applicants to build local capacity to provide emergency support services including the purchase of ESS equipment.

#### Regional Approach

As we move to a regional emergency management model, where possible emergency management grants will be used to support the growth and improvement of the full program benefiting all local authority and First Nation members. Under CEPF, the regional emergency management program is eligible for the maximum funding available is based on the number of eligible applicants included in the regional application.

#### Cowichan's 2022 ESS Grant Proposal

To ensure power availability at as many reception centre options as possible, the Cowichan Emergency Program would purchase two (2) towable large generators (50kwh). Generators would be mounted on towable trailers. These deployable generators could also be dropped by helicopter if accessibility to an area became a challenge. Estimated cost of the project is \$100,000.00. Buildings identified as potential reception centres could (outside of the grant) be fitted with a transfer switch allowing them to 'plug-in' to the generator when needed.

#### FOR ACTION:

**Each municipality to resolve “for the Cowichan Valley Regional District to apply for, receive, and manage the UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Emergency Support Services grant funding on behalf of insert Municipality or First Nation name”.**  
**This resolution can be received anytime before March 1, 2022.**

**Your commitment to the project by reply to [April.diver@cvrd.bc.ca](mailto:April.diver@cvrd.bc.ca) is required by January 18, 2022.**