

NO: R084

COUNCIL DATE: June 5, 2023

---

## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **June 1, 2023**

FROM: **Director, Strategic Initiatives & Corporate Reporting**

FILE: **0290-01**

SUBJECT: **Union of BC Municipalities 2023 Community Excellence Awards**

---

## RECOMMENDATION

The Director, Strategic Initiatives & Corporate Reporting recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information;
2. Authorize staff to submit applications to the Union of BC Municipalities (“UBCM”) Community Excellence Awards for the initiatives described in Appendix “I”; and
3. Instruct the City Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to the 2023 UBCM Community Excellence Awards in support of the City’s applications.

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to obtain a Council resolution supporting the submissions of four initiatives for 2023 UBCM Community Excellence Awards, which is a requirement for submission.

## BACKGROUND

The UBCM Community Excellence Awards are an annual event, recognizing and celebrating excellence in local government projects or programs which can serve as “best practices” for other local governments. The City has been successful in the annual UBCM awards program in the past, winning several Community Excellence awards:

- 2011 “Overall Excellence” award for local governments across BC;
- 2011 “Best Practice, Website” award for the surrey.ca website re-design;
- 2012 “Best Practice, General” award for the Safe and Active Schools Program;
- 2012 “Excellence in Partnerships” award for the Kensington Prairie Community Centre;
- 2013 “Best Practice, Social Media” award;
- 2014 “Best Practice, Operations” award for the Erosion and Sediment Control Permit On-line Reporting tool;
- 2015 “Excellence in Action” award for the Street Light Copper Replacement program;
- 2015 “Best Practice, Community Connections” award for the MySurrey App;
- 2016 “Excellence in Leadership and Innovation” award for the BioPod Initiative; and

- 2020 “Excellence in Service Delivery” award for Surrey Makes Personal Protective Equipment (“PPE”).

For 2023, awards will be given in four categories:

1. The Excellence in Governance category recognizes governance processes or policies that are outcomes-based and consensus oriented; support and encourage citizen participation in civic decision-making; are efficient, equitable and inclusive, open and transparent; and exemplify best practices in accountability, effectiveness, and long-term thinking;
2. The Excellence in Service Delivery category recognizes projects/programs that provide effective services in a proactive manner and demonstrate benefit to the community;
3. The Excellence in Asset Management category recognizes Projects/programs that demonstrate a comprehensive system of asset management policies and practices, meeting and/or exceeding accepted best practices.; and
4. The Excellence in Sustainability category recognizes projects/programs that incorporate a long-term sustainability lens by considering cultural, social, economic and environmental issues in planning, policy and practice.

## **DISCUSSION**

The City has prepared applications for each of the award categories:

- Excellence in Governance category – Surrey Ethics Commissioner Office by the Corporate Services Department;
- Excellence in Service Delivery - Surrey Anti-Gang Family Empowerment (“SAFE”) Program by the Community Services Department;
- Excellence in Asset Management – Capital Planning Dashboard by the Engineering Department; and
- Excellence in Sustainability - City of Surrey’s Salmon Habitat Restoration Program (“SHaRP”) by the Engineering Department.

A summary of each of the City’s applications is summarized in Appendix “I”.

Awards will be announced and presented at the 2023 UBCM convention in September 2023.

## **CONCLUSION**

The City has prepared applications for four initiatives for 2023 UBCM Community Excellence Awards that meet the criteria of the awards program and are exemplary projects worthy of an award in their relevant category.

Jeff Arason, P.Eng.  
Director, Strategic Initiatives & Corporate Reporting

Appendix “I” – 2023 UBCM Award Submissions

## 2023 UBCM Award Submissions

### **Excellence in Governance category – Surrey Ethics Commissioner Office**

In the interest of enhancing fair, ethical, and transparent governance, the City of Surrey embarked on a landmark initiative in 2019 to establish an independent ethics commissioner office that no other local government in BC had established, despite a trend of increasing codification of ethical conduct at the municipal level. In 2020, the Surrey Ethics Commissioner Office (“SECO”) became the first of its kind in BC, creating a dedicated resource to help ensure that Surrey Council Members meet its own ethical standards and to provide the public with a way to raise ethical concerns with Council. With an established Ethics Commissioner Office, formal complaints can be received, reviewed, investigated, and adjudicated fairly based on the Surrey Council Code of Conduct Bylaw. The result is the ability to provide all members of the public with an equitable way to address concerns regardless of social, economic, or cultural background.

### **Excellence in Service Delivery - Surrey Anti-Gang Family Empowerment Program**

The Surrey Anti-Gang Family Empowerment Program (“SAFE”) is a first-of-its-kind approach to preventing and addressing youth gang involvement. Led by the City of Surrey, SAFE involves 10 multi-sectoral partners delivering 11 individual programs made possible by \$7.5M of federal funding over five years. SAFE’s data-informed program design led to services being neighbourhood-specific, gender sensitive, and culturally appropriate. SAFE programming is founded on the notion that collaborative interventions will result in reduced risk, increased resiliency, and decreased affiliation with criminality.

### **Excellence in Asset Management – Capital Planning Dashboard**

Engineering capital asset replacement prioritization is a complex process to ensure consideration of numerous relevant pieces of information.

The capital planning dashboard enables utility managers to access comprehensive asset inventory information, including intrinsic parameters such as pipe age, size, material, etc., as well as the condition, probability and consequence of failure, estimated replacement cost, and inclusion in the City’s 10-Year Capital Plan.

The dashboard allows users to filter through different combinations of parameters to identify assets that require higher priority for replacement and determine the associated budget needed. Its purpose is to provide asset managers with a centralized platform where they can easily review all key information, make data-driven decisions, and justify the corresponding utility budget requirements.

### **Excellence in Sustainability - City of Surrey’s Salmon Habitat Restoration Program**

Surrey’s commitment to environmental stewardship is exemplified by the Salmon Habitat Restoration Program (“SHaRP”). This program is a student-based initiative that promotes watershed stewardship and habitat enhancement. SHaRP engages post-secondary and secondary students in projects aimed at protecting and raising awareness about the significance of urban streams for indigenous fish species.

As Surrey is projected to become the largest city in British Columbia, the growth and development underscore the importance of enhancing and preserving natural assets throughout the City. The program is designed to align the City's efforts in maintaining its 1400 kilometers of drainage waterways and improving compensation habitats established through the capital infrastructure program. Simultaneously, it leverages these opportunities to provide career-oriented experiences for local youth. This replicable student model establishes a sustainable funding source to ensure the program's perpetual delivery, thereby achieving altruistic goals and operational efficiencies.