

NO: R179

COUNCIL DATE: October 30, 2023

---

## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **October 26, 2023**

FROM: **Fire Chief, Emergency Planning Coordinator  
General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture**

FILE: **1855-04**

SUBJECT: **Union of BC Municipalities Grant for Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training**

---

## RECOMMENDATION

The Surrey Fire Service and Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommend that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Authorize staff to apply for a grant from the Union of BC Municipalities (“UBCM”), Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training in the amount of \$30,000 to develop training and resources for Emergency Operation Centre (“EOC”) and Emergency Support Services (“ESS”) staff and volunteers as generally described in this report.

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council authorization to apply for UBCM’s Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training grant in the amount of \$30,000 to develop culturally appropriate training and resources for EOC and ESS staff and volunteers.

## BACKGROUND

The UBCM Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training fund supports applicants to enhance cultural safety and humility in the delivery of local emergency management programs and services. Funding is available for activities including cultural safety and humility training, adapting emergency management tools to be inclusive of Indigenous peoples, and activities related to partnering with, or providing assistance to, Indigenous communities during emergency mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Surrey Fire Service (“SFS”) and Parks, Recreation & Culture (“PRC”) staff are working together on a grant application. To receive this grant funding, the UBCM requires a resolution from Council indicating *“support for the current proposed activities and willingness to provide overall grant management.”*

## DISCUSSION

Surrey has the largest Urban Indigenous population in the province, with over 16,000 Indigenous people living in Surrey. With a higher frequency of climate related emergencies, there is opportunity for city staff to deliver mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery activities in the community in a way that is culturally appropriate for all evacuees.

To better serve our Indigenous communities, SFS and PRC plan to develop and deliver Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility training to staff that have roles within the EOC structure. This includes EOC and ESS staff and volunteer responders providing support during an evacuation.

Under the proposed project, staff will engage with local Indigenous communities to improve understanding of how the City's delivery of emergency management including ESS programs can better meet their needs. Staff will also engage with the City of White Rock to explore how training can be aligned as it pertains to First Nations communities who may be supported by ESS programs in our two municipalities.

Staff plan to engage the services of a consultant to develop and deliver training to emergency management personnel including EOC and ESS staff and volunteers. Training will focus on advancing our knowledge and understanding of the lived experiences of Indigenous people while providing staff with the skill set to incorporate these learnings into creating a safer environment during emergency response and recovery activities. This training will enhance the City's current local emergency management plans and response activities by promoting a deeper understanding of the cultural differences and needs of the communities being served. Ultimately, improving these services will lead to more effective communication, stronger relationships and better outcomes for all.

## FUNDING

The total cost to complete this training is \$30,000 and no additional funding will be required from the City of Surrey.

## CONCLUSION

Under the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*, municipalities and regional districts are responsible for responding to emergencies in their area. The funding outlined above will enhance the ability for staff to provide support to the community when impacted by a disaster through enhanced staff training. As part of the application process, a local government Council resolution showing support for the proposed activity is required and recommended.

Larry Thomas  
Fire Chief

Laurie Cavan  
General Manager,  
Parks, Recreation & Culture