



# REPORT TO COUNCIL

To: **Mayor and Councillors**

Subject: UBCM Poverty Planning and Action Program  
Grant Application

File #: [Required]

Doc #:

From: Kim Hilton  
Director of Recreation, Culture and Community  
Services

Date: February 2, 2021

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## RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council support staff's grant application to the UBCM Poverty Reduction Planning and Action program supporting the poverty reduction work and the grant management.

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## PURPOSE:

The purpose of the report is to provide information on the UBCM Poverty Planning and Action Program and to get council support for the application process.

## POLICY:

N/A

## COMMENTS/ANALYSIS:

The Province released their provincial poverty reduction strategy, TogetherBC in March of 2019 (Attachement 1). It represents the starting point for delivering the targets introduced in the 2018 Poverty Reduction Strategy Act. The goals are ambitious with a 25% reduction in BC's overall poverty rate and a 50% reduction in the children poverty rate by 2024. For TogetherBC to be successful, community and all levels of government need to work towards the end targets.

In 2015 multiple agencies in Langley came together to ensure that all community stakeholders identify and understand factors that contribute to Langley residents living

in poverty. The Poverty to Prosperity – Working Towards a Healthier Community project was one of the initiatives arising from the Langley Healthier Community Partnership (Attachment 2). The work was informed by lived experience of Langley residents – a youth, a family and a senior. Through this work 7 strategies were identified. The Poverty Reduction task group was formed to work through these strategies. To date, the focus of the task group has been two-fold, food security and the establishment of a neighbourhood house<sup>1</sup> (yet to be realized).

### **UBCM Poverty Reduction and Action Program**

Under the framework of its Poverty Reduction Strategy and stated need for solutions across all levels of government, the Province has provided funding to the UBCM to administer a Poverty Reduction Planning and Action program. In 2020, the Province provided \$5 million over three years. Now in the second intake, UBCM is accepting applications to this program to support communities in reducing poverty at the local level. Only local governments are eligible to apply to the program. Eligible applicants can submit one application per intake.

The program has two streams:

- Stream 1 provides up to \$25,000 in funding to develop local poverty reduction assessments and plans.
- Stream 2 provides up to \$50,000 in funding to undertake local poverty reduction projects (e.g., social enterprise initiatives that provide employment support and local food security initiatives like community kitchens and food-waste diversion projects)

In order to be eligible for Stream 2 funding, local governments are required to have completed a poverty reduction plan or assessment, or another plan or strategy inclusive of poverty reduction principles. Currently, Langley City is only eligible for Stream 1 funding.

A Council resolution indicating support for the poverty reduction planning work is a requirement of the application. All approved activities are required to be completed within one year of approval. The deadline for submission is March 5, 2021.

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<sup>1</sup> **Neighbourhood houses** are welcoming places where everyone can attend, participate, lead and learn through programs, services and **community** building. They open their doors as a second home in the **community** and offer needs-based programs and services to residents. Often housing several different community/government service providers.

## **Healthier Community Partnership – Poverty Reduction Task Group**

The Poverty Reduction Task Group was supportive of the application as the work will provide the community, businesses and agencies with an updated strategic plan. Feedback from the January 26, 2021 meeting included:

- A plan with current data and engagement findings would benefit community-based service organizations with funding applications.
- A plan for both Langleys is optimal.
- The process could help reveal poverty-related impacts of COVID-19; it was noted that many families are now struggling that were not before COVID-19.
- The timing is appropriate and would provide the Task Group with enhanced strategic direction.

Township staff have also indicated that the Township will also be applying for the grant. A partnership by both municipalities would provide additional funding for the plan development, more robust community engagement and action planning. The Poverty Reduction Task Group spans both municipalities, so working together benefits the community while informing the Quality-of-Life key result area of the City's strategic plan. The work will also contribute to several of the city's masterplans being updated in 2021/2022.

### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:**

The UBCM grant does not require local governments to provide funding for the project, the funding from the province will be sufficient to cover the costs of the work carried out.

### **ALTERNATIVES:**

Do not apply for the UBCM Poverty Planning and Action Program funding.

### **SUMMARY:**

Using grant funding provided by the province through UBCM will provide the opportunity to the Poverty Reduction Task Group to develop an updated strategic plan to help address poverty reduction issues in the Langley communities.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Kim Hilton  
Director of Recreation, Culture and Community Services

Attachments:

1. TogetherBC
2. From Poverty to Prosperity – Working Towards a Healthier Community

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S COMMENTS:**

I support the recommendation.



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Francis Cheung, P. Eng.  
Chief Administrative Officer