



**To:** Richmond City Council **Date:** July 10, 2023  
**From:** Cecilia Achiam **File:** 09-5126-01/2023-Vol  
 General Manager, Community Safety 01  
**Re:** **UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Grant Application**

**Staff Recommendation**

1. That staff be authorized to submit an application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for up to \$30,000 in grant funding as described in the report titled “UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Grant Application”, dated July 10, 2023 from the General Manager, Community Safety;
2. That should the funding application be successful, the Fire Chief be authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the City of Richmond with the UBCM; and
3. That the Consolidated 5 Year Financial Plan (2023-2027) be amended accordingly.

Cecilia Achiam  
 General Manager, Community Safety  
 (604-276-4122)

<b>REPORT CONCURRENCE</b>		
<b>ROUTED TO:</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>
Finance Department	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainability and District Energy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b>	<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b>

## Staff Report

### Origin

The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) is a suite of funding streams intended to enhance the resiliency of local communities in responding to emergencies. The CEPF is provided by the Province of BC and is administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). CEPF is currently accepting applications for the 2023 funding request.

The grant application requires a Council resolution indicating support for the proposed projects, as well as a willingness to provide overall grant management. The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to submit a grant application to the 2023 UBCM Extreme Temperature Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning stream.

Applying for funding provided by the Province of British Columbia and administered by UBCM supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 focus areas 3 'A Safe and Prepared Community', and 4 'Responsible Financial Management and Governance'.

*Community safety and preparedness through effective planning, strategic partnerships, and proactive programs.*

*3.3 Ensure the community is collectively prepared for emergencies and potential disasters.*

*Responsible financial management and efficient use of public resources to meet the needs of the community.*

*4.4 Work with all levels of government for grant and funding opportunities.*

### Analysis

Global climate change has been causing extreme temperatures and weather events to occur more regularly. Response and recovery costs due to climate-related disasters in BC in 2021 are estimated to be between \$10-17 billion<sup>1</sup>, making climate the most expensive cause of disasters in Canadian history. The frequency and costs of climate-related disasters are expected to continue to increase. An assessment of our community, infrastructure, and climate trends will support the City's efforts to mitigate losses and prepare the City for future extreme temperature events.

Staff are seeking Council endorsement for an application to Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) for grant funding to enhance our understanding of the risks posed by current and future extreme temperature events. The City will be requesting the maximum CEPF contribution of \$30,000 to fund this initiative.

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<sup>1</sup> Lee, M., & Parfitt, B. (2022, November 30). *A Climate Reckoning The economic costs of BC's extreme weather in 2021*. Retrieved from Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives: <https://policyalternatives.ca/climate-reckoning>

Staff intend to use this grant funding to generate a map of the City that displays the areas most at risk to extreme temperatures. Demographics (particularly at-risk populations), facilities, existing physical infrastructure, geographic layout; and how these factors may contribute to or mitigate extreme temperature-prone areas will all be considered in developing this analysis.

The information from this analysis will subsequently feed into our extreme temperature planning process and the development of future initiatives that target these identified populations and areas. Additionally, this analysis could help inform future updates to the Official Community Plan by recommending steps to increase our community's resiliency in extreme temperatures. Finally, a condition of the grant is that this data will feed into a province-wide map, potentially contributing to future provincially-led initiatives to address extreme temperature-related hazards.

### **Financial Impact**

Should the City be awarded the grant, the Consolidated 5 Year Financial Plan (2023-2027) will be amended accordingly.

### **Conclusion**

As part of the submission process, UBCM requires confirmation of Council endorsement of the funding application. This project is aligned with the Council Strategic Plan 2022-2026 and contributes to our continued efforts to ensure the City remains a prepared and resilient community through efficient fiscal management and adapting to the City's continuously evolving contemporary hazards. Staff recommend approving the application to the CEPF for grant funding to support extreme temperature risk mapping, assessment and planning initiatives.



Brennan MacLachlan  
Manager, Emergency Programs  
(604-314-8776)