



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

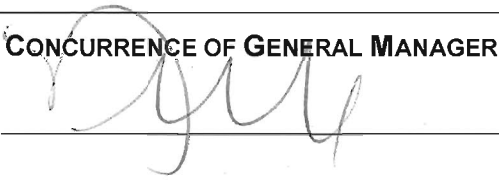


**To:** Community Safety Committee **Date:** March 28, 2014  
**From:** Tim Wilkinson **File:** 99-Fire Rescue/2014-Vol 01  
 Deputy Fire Chief  
**Re:** Hazardous Materials Equipment Loan Agreement - Her Majesty The Queen

### Staff Recommendation

That the Chief Administrative Officer and General Manager of Law and Community Safety be authorized to execute a loan agreement on behalf of the City of Richmond and Her Majesty The Queen In Right of Canada for hazardous materials identification equipment to be used by Richmond Fire-Rescue, as outlined in the report dated March 28, 2014 from Tim Wilkinson, Deputy Fire Chief.



Tim Wilkinson  
 Deputy Fire Chief  
 (604-303-2701)

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
<b>ROUTED TO:</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>
Intergovernmental Relations & Protocol Unit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b> 	<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b> 

## Staff Report

### Origin

This report supports Council's Term Goal 5.5:

*Continue to vigorously pursue joint funding opportunities between ourselves and federal and provincial governments for capital projects.*

The Federal Government of Canada (the Minister of Health on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen In Right of Canada) has hazardous materials (hazmat) equipment valued at \$389,740 that would be of benefit to Richmond Fire-Rescue and other City departments.

A loan agreement term commencing the date the last signature is affixed to the loan agreement to October 31, 2033 is proposed.

### Background

Richmond's Hazmat Program is part of the City's overall Emergency Plan. The Hazmat Program's purpose is to assess risk, consider prevention initiatives, be prepared for response, and have recovery measures in place to manage hazmat incidents in Richmond, and RFR plays key roles in the City's associated Dangerous Goods Spill Response and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNE) Plans.

Fire personnel are trained and equipped to respond to hazmat emergency response calls in Richmond and to work with other agencies. Calls involve the containment of hazardous materials such as chemical leakages, oil and gas spillages, and drug-related police incidents. In 2013, RFR responded to 124 hazmat 9-1-1 calls.

The equipment offered for loan would enable Richmond Fire-Rescue to detect and identify explosives, weapons, chemical agents, biohazards, nuclear and radioactive materials, and narcotics at a world class level, augmenting Richmond's existing Hazmat Program services and capabilities.

### Analysis

The stated Federal Government purpose of the loan agreement is to offer the City (RFR) the use of equipment to:

1. Augment their rapid response capability to respond to actual or suspected CBRNE or hazmat incidents within Richmond;
2. Support their obligations to other municipal, provincial, or federal partners as appropriate/directed/requested/approved by senior management.

Operational improvements for RFR:

1. Hazmat responders can increase their ability to identify and mitigate hazardous materials;
2. Additional equipment can be deployed more widely into fire halls, creating more rapid accessibility and response.
3. Delay of purchase of new monitoring equipment by City of Richmond, optimizing budget allocation to other high priority Hazardous Materials program purchases.

The basic terms of the loan agreement are as follows:

Equipment: The equipment being offered for loan includes:

1. Hazardous Materials Equipment
  - a. Materials Identification: monitors, detectors, meters, analyzers, test kits and microscope
  - b. Personal Protection Devices: masks and air tanks
  - c. Air shelters and multi-person decontamination tents
  - d. Satellite Communication: phones, radios, dish
  - e. Computer software and a printer
2. Deployment Vehicles:
  - a. An emergency response truck to transport the equipment
  - b. A van for operational support

Loan Term: Nineteen years (ending in 2033). Agreement can be terminated in whole or part by either party by giving 14 days written notice.

Liability: The City, by signing the agreement, would be responsible for:

1. Indemnifying and saving harmless "Her Majesty".
2. Insuring the property, for full replacement value, against fire, theft, loss or other casualty.
3. Maintaining the equipment in good repair (storage, repair, maintenance) and obtaining annual licensing (software and vehicular).
4. Returning the equipment in the same condition, excepting wear and tear, at the end of the term.

### **Financial Impact**

RFR has determined that the operational budget impact would be \$6,000 per year, funded within the existing budget level, and beginning in 2015 as the equipment will be delivered to the City in a fully operational state in 2014. This funding would be used to insure vehicles, maintain equipment and update computer software.

### **Conclusion**

The hazardous material equipment loan from the Federal Government allows the use of specialized equipment intended to augment Richmond's existing Hazmat Program service delivery. Permission to execute the equipment loan agreement is sought from Council.



Tim Wilkinson  
Deputy Fire Chief  
(604-303-2701)