



## MEMO

**To:** Skeena-Queen Charlotte Regional District Board / Public  
**Date:** March 15, 2013  
**From:** Joanne Fraser, Deputy Corporate Officer  
**Subject:** March 15, 2013 SQCRD Board Agenda – Late Items

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The following are late item submissions pertaining to the March 15, 2013 Regular Board meeting agenda. Please insert them into the agenda package where applicable:

### 7.0 Correspondence

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| 7.6 | Ministry of Citizens' Services and Open Government - Sandspit Cellular service | Pg 30a-b |
| 7.7 | Union of BC Municipalities – Treaty Advisory Committee Operational Funding     | Pg 30c-e |

**Recommendation:**

That the Board support the application for 2012/13 and 2013/14 Treaty Advisory Committee funding and provide overall management of the Grant.

### 11.0 New Business

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| 11.2 | J. Fraser, Deputy Corporate Officer - Misty Isles Economic Development Society – Resolution for Grant Application | Verbal |
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**Recommendation:**

That the Board supports the annual grant application of \$35,000 to the Northern Development Initiative's Capacity Building Program, with \$17,500 allocated to Misty Isles Development Society for Electoral Areas D and E and \$17,500 allocated for Electoral Areas A and C.

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| 11.3 | Skidegate Volunteer Fire Department – Fire Department and Emergency Services | Pg 103-104 |
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RECEIVED

MAR 12 2013

SKEENA-QUEEN CHARLOTTE  
REGIONAL DISTRICTBRITISH  
COLUMBIA

Ref: 97858

March 1, 2013

Mr. Barry Pages  
Chair  
Skeena-Queen Charlotte Regional District  
100-1st Avenue East  
Prince Rupert BC V8J 1A6

Dear Mr. Pages:

Thank you for your letter of February 13, 2013, to Premier Christy Clark regarding cellular telephone connectivity in Sandspit on Haida Gwaii. As the Minister of Citizens' Services and Open Government, I am responsible for government's programs that expand high-speed Internet and cellular telephone connectivity. Premier Clark has asked that I respond on her behalf.

Canada's largest earthquake in 60 years and the subsequent aftershocks, including those felt just this week, are a reminder to us all of the vulnerability of British Columbia's coastal communities. In response to the October, 2012 earthquake, B.C.'s Tsunami Warning and Alerting Plan was initiated, informing all coastal local governments in the risk area, RCMP detachments, federal public safety agencies and media networks and outlets. While cellular telephone and Internet connectivity play a role in the alert system, they are not the only means whereby timely information is made available. Nevertheless, the importance of connectivity to individual citizens and first responders as they reach out to neighbours and families during a crisis cannot be overstated, and the Province is working to encourage the private sector to make improvements to its network infrastructure.

Haida Gwaii has been a focus of Provincial efforts to expand connectivity. Most recently, a Provincial grant of \$250,000 was provided through Network BC to the GwaiiTel Society to establish an additional telecommunications link to the mainland. Combined with its own resources, the organization leveraged this grant to obtain substantial Federal funding needed to complete the \$1.5 million project.

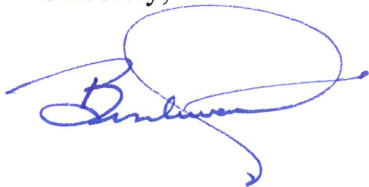
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With the conclusion of the Broadband Canada grant program and the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund due to wind down in 2013, the Province advocates to the Federal level on behalf of B.C. communities that future national funding programs, such as the Long-Term Infrastructure Plan, specifically recognize telecommunications as critical infrastructure. The inability of local and regional governments to access sufficient funds to initiate their own connectivity projects limits their ability to leverage local demand and form partnerships engaging the private sector.

By copy of this letter, I will ask Mr. Chris Hauff, the Director of Network BC, to ask TELUS to investigate the cause of the reported degradation of cellular coverage in Sandspit and to report back to you the results of his enquiry.

As recent events have once again demonstrated, enhanced telecommunications is critical for public safety, especially for residents of the more remote areas of B.C. Given our difficult terrain, long distances, and the very high cost of telecommunications infrastructure, realizing the vision of every citizen enjoying equitable access to the benefits of this technology requires all levels of government to work together with the private sector.

Sincerely,



Ben Stewart  
Minister

pc: Mr. Wilf Bangert, Executive Lead Responsible for Network BC  
Ministry of Citizens' Services and Open Government

Mr. Chris Hauff, Director, Network BC  
Ministry of Citizens' Services and Open Government



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## Supporting Treaty Implementation

### 2012/13 & 2013/14 TAC Operational Funding

E-mail: [lgps@ubcm.ca](mailto:lgps@ubcm.ca)

Mail: 525 Government Street, Victoria, BC, V8V 0A8

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## Program & Application Guide

### 1. Introduction

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The Supporting Treaty Implementation program was developed in 2007 with funding from the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations & Reconciliation. The intent of the program was to demonstrate options and provide examples of initiatives that local governments were undertaking to support treaty implementation activities in their communities.

The original program was open to Treaty Advisory Committees (TACs) and local governments affected by a signed or initialled final agreement or who were involved in the negotiation of a final agreement. Grants were available for pilot projects that supported treaty implementation through activities such as developing an agreement between a local government and First Nation, establishing a mentoring program, or undertaking a community education campaign.

In 2009, UBCM worked with the Ministry to enhance the existing program in order to support TACs to participate at treaty tables. This resulted in the opportunity for TACs and/or local governments that met eligibility requirements to apply for operating funds for 2009/10. This was subsequently extended to 2010/11 and 2011/12.

UBCM is now pleased to announce that, funding permitting, TACs and/or local governments that are participating at a treaty negotiation table at Stage 4 or Stage 5 and that meet eligibility criteria can apply for up to \$5,000 to recover eligible operating costs from 2012/13 and up to \$5,000 for eligible operational costs in the 2013/14 fiscal year.

### 2. Program Details

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Funding permitting, grants of up to \$5,000 per active treaty table, for both 2012/13 and 2013/14, are available to TACs and/or local governments that are:

- Participating at treaty tables in Stage 4 or Stage 5 of the negotiation process
- Required to participate directly with First Nations in land, jurisdiction or servicing discussions
- Required to participate directly in the negotiation of a treaty-related measure, treaty interim measure or incremental treaty agreement.

Please refer to the Government of BC's treaty webpage ([www.treaties.gov.bc.ca](http://www.treaties.gov.bc.ca)) for information on tables that are at Stage 4 or Stage 5

### 3. Eligible Activities

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Funding permitting, operational funding is available for both 2012/13 and 2013/14 to support TACs and/or local governments to participate at a treaty negotiation table at Stage 4 or Stage 5. Eligible expenditures are limited to:

- Costs incurred by TAC representatives for travel, accommodation, meals and per diems.
- Staff time.

### 4. Application Process

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The Application Form must be completed and submitted with the required attachments. Applicants have the opportunity to apply for both 2012/13 and 2013/14 operational funding on one application form. This form is available on the UBCM website ([www.ubcm.ca](http://www.ubcm.ca)).

#### **Please note the following important points when preparing your application:**

- The application deadline is March 28, 2013 and applicants may only apply once for the 2012/13 and 2013/14 fiscal years.
- There is no matching requirement.
- For 2012/13 funding, all activities must have taken place between April 1, 2012 and March 31, 2013. For 2013/14 funding, all activities must take place between April 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014.
- A Board/Council resolution or TAC meeting minutes, indicating support for the proposal, is required.
- A final report (for 2013/14 activities only) will be required by April 30, 2014.

### 5. Approval Process

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This is a competition-based program and preference will be given to applications that demonstrate advancement at the treaty table.

The application deadline is March 28, 2013 and applicants will be notified of the status of their application by April 30, 2013.

The Evaluation Committee will assess each application for attention to the goals, objectives and eligibility criteria. The committee will also consider the location of each proposal in order to ensure a balanced representation in both rural and urban portions of the province and will aim to fund activities with a range of experience and diversity.

### 6. Grant Management & Applicant Responsibilities

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#### **Notice of Approval**

All applicants will receive written notice of the Evaluation Committee's decision as well as the terms or conditions of any grant that is awarded.

For 2012/13 funding, the full grant will be awarded when funding decisions have been made. For 2013/14 funding, grants will be awarded in two cheques: 70% at the approval of the application and 30% when activities are complete and UBCM has received all required reports and a financial summary.

### **Applicant Responsibilities**

Please note: funding permitting, grants are awarded to local governments and TACs only. In addition to the terms and conditions that will be provided to all successful applicants, approved applicants are responsible for:

- Proper fiscal management, including acceptable accounting records.
- Final report.

### **Changes to Approved Activities**

Approved applicants are required to advise UBCM of any significant variation from the approved activities as described in the completed Application Form. Approval from UBCM may be required in advance for changes.

## **7. Submitting Your Final Report (2013/14 Operations Only)**

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The Final Report is an important instrument for UBCM and the provincial government to measure the success of this program.

For 2013/14 funding only, the final report is due no later than April 30, 2014. The final report can be submitted as a letter and should include:

- A brief description of the TAC operations in 2013/14.
- Financial summary detailing how the funds were spent.

## **8. Where to Apply & Additional Information**

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All application materials should be addressed to:

Local Government Program Services  
Union of BC Municipalities  
525 Government Street  
Victoria, BC, V8V 0A8

Fax: (250) 356-5119  
E-mail: lgps@ubcm.ca

Skeena Queen Charlotte Regional District  
100- 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue East  
Prince Rupert, B C  
V8J-1A6

March 13<sup>th</sup> 2013

Attention Chairman Barry Pages

**Re: Fire Protection Area "D"**

Dear Sir

I'm the Deputy Chief of the Skidegate Volunteer Fire Department and our fire department is unofficially willing to respond to any fire or MVA call to Lawn Hill Road which is 16.5 Kilometers from our Skidegate Fire Hall, we feel that our coverage area has to be made official, as we have community members living in Lawn Hill and Miller Creek area who are owners of the equipment in our Fire Department, we also have fire firefighters from the Miller Creek.

Our services are:

1. Fire Protection
2. Motor Vehicle Accident
3. EMR

Our equipment:

1. 800 gallon Pumper
2. Rapid Response, 300 gallons & Jaw of Life and accessories
3. Portable pumps

At the present time our legal protection is limited to the boundaries of the Skidegate Reserve and the Halibut Shack Reserve (Jungle Beach) however our people are saying we have to do it the "***Haida way, which means we will help anybody that needs help***"! We strongly feel that working with Regional "D" would not only be for the advantage of the people living in the area but also benefit the Skidegate Volunteer Fire Department as well, as we do have a **mutual aid agreement** with the Village of Queen Charlotte Volunteer Fire Department and if we get a call outside our boundaries, we will call them and inform them that we are responding to a call up the coast, however if we have an event in our community this would take precedence over responding outside our community! We also believe that if we can extent our boundaries we can work together to expand on our equipment to ensure better protection in the future, the importance of this would be for the benefit of all. We also have taken measures to find water sources on the highway in the event someone has an unfortunate event in the area where there are no fire hydrants. Such a relationship would spawn the sharing of training, equipment need to test emergency tools of the trade & building respect between departments and other services!

There is still a lot of work to be done on this and would like to see a emergency services meeting for all the departments from Tlell to the Village of Queen Charlotte, we will be happy to host this meeting in Skidegate, first we would meet with the councils, regional district and respective emergency services departments, Tlell Fire Department, Skidegate and Queen Charlotte, followed by a public meeting and information session for the communities.

*I can't help thinking of a situation where an ambulance gets a call to an MVA and needs the Jaws of Life and as fire departments are restricted by bureaucratic boundaries, now arrive at the MVA and you got a family member or a friend in the accident, **in a life or death situation!***

*I'm very pleased that without an agreement my people in Skidegate have supported our Fire Department and Emergency Services to respond to any emergency call up to Lawn Hill! Today we have a capable crew committed to put their lives on the line for others, building safer community for all!*

I trust that the members of the Regional District will put your valuable consideration into this request and move forward in a timely manner, as we are volunteers and are committed to helping anyone in need, help us protect ourselves!

Just a foot note: Tlell Fire Department is 16.5 Kilometers from Lawn Hill Road!

Sincerely

Deputy Chief Roy S Jones Jr  
Skidegate Volunteer Fire Department

CC: Village of Queen Charlotte  
Skidegate Band Council  
Michael Richardson Fire Chief Tlell Fire Department  
Michael Racz Director Regional District Area "D"