

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE **DATE:** 2021 September 01

FROM: DIRECTOR FINANCE **FILE:** 7300-20

SUBJECT: CANADA COMMUNITY-BUILDING FUND/GAS TAX

PURPOSE: To provide an update on the Federal Gas Tax Program.

RECOMMENDATION

1. **THAT** the Financial Management Committee recommend Council receive this report as information.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Federal Gas Tax Fund is used by the Canadian Government to distribute predictable, long-term, stable cash flows for investment in infrastructure and capacity-building projects to local governments across the country. A tripartite agreement established between Canada, British Columbia (BC), and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) provides the framework for the delivery of these funds to local governments in BC.

This report is a follow-up to the report provided to Council on 2021 June 14 and provides information on the changes to the Federal Gas Tax Program.

2.0 POLICY SECTION

Goal

- A Thriving Organization
 - Financial viability –
Maintain a financially sustainable City for the provision, renewal and enhancement of City services, facilities and assets

3.0 TOP-UP PAYMENT

Although funds have historically been provided as two (2) annual payments, in June 2020 the Canadian Government announced that the allocation of funds would be accelerated and provided to communities as a single payment in order to help Canadian communities recover from the COVID-19 pandemic as quickly as possible. Going forward, the funds will be provided as a single lump sum amount each year.

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Recently, the Canadian Government also announced that an additional one-time top-up payment would be distributed to local governments in 2021. The one-time payment allotted to Burnaby and received 2021 August 16, as per the Canada-British Columbia-UBCM administrative agreement, was \$751,611. This payment, along with the annual payment of \$785,999 received in 2021 June, for a total of \$1,537,610 for 2021, will be directed to the Federal Gas Tax Reserve for application towards eligible capital projects undertaken by the City.

4.0 NAME CHANGE

As of 2021 June 29, the Gas Tax Fund has been renamed the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF). The Government of Canada chose to change the name, indicating that it better reflected the program's evolution over time. The change in name does not modify or alter the objectives and requirements of the program.

5.0 ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Local governments have the flexibility to apply the funding received to projects of their choosing that fall within the prescribed infrastructure categories. Historically, this has included public transit, community energy systems, wastewater infrastructure, and more. This year, the list of eligible categories has been expanded to include fire halls and fire station infrastructure.

6.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Financial Management Committee recommend Council receive this report as information.



Noreen Kassam, CPA, CGA
DIRECTOR FINANCE

NK:RG/gm:md

Copied to: Acting City Manager
Chief Administrative Officer