

BRIEFING NOTE FOR DECISION

Date: October 28, 2020

Prepared For: Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Title: COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant Amounts

Purpose: To approve the funding amounts to individual Local Governments under the COVID-19

Safe Restart Grant, and to provide direction on timing of notification and payments to

local governments.

RECOMMENDED OPTION:

• **OPTION 1** - provide payment to municipalities and regional districts as provided in Attachment 1.

BACKGROUND:

On July 22, 2020, the Province announced it was earmarking up to \$1 billion of additional provincial spending targeted to address COVID-19 impacts and restart plans of local governments and public transit services, conditional on matching federal contributions under a 50/50 cost-sharing criteria.

On August 10, 2020, Premier Horgan addressed a "Safe Restart Letter" to Prime Minister Trudeau which served as the basis of a funding agreement and included a term sheet for "Municipalities and Transit". The local government component of funding was approximately \$540 million equally shared between the Federal Government (\$270 million) and the Province (\$270 million).

Under an exchange of commitment letters, Canada and BC will support local governments with operating costs that will flow in this fiscal year (2020/21). The Province committed to direct and verifiable transfers to local governments with no clawbacks.

DISCUSSION:

s.12; s.13; s.17

On September 9, 2020, Treasury Board s.12; s.13; s.17 authorizing a number of items including \$425 million for local governments, s.12 s.12; s.13; s.17

On September 20, 2020, Cabinet approved an OIC (OIC Order 564 September 20, 2020 – Part 6 of Local Government Grants Regulation), under the *Local Government Grants Act*, authorizing the minister set payments plus any terms, conditions and reporting requirements associated with paying the local government grants (called the COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant) under the "Safe Restart Letter". The regulation provides for the eligible use of funds based on direction provided by Treasury Board.

Under the section 36 of the Local Government Grants Regulation, the Minister may set the amount of the grant. This would be done at the discretion of the Minister but within the broad parameters of the Treasury Board Decision Minute, s.12 s.12

The objective of this program is to inject needed liquidity into the local government system to help them address certain cost pressures caused by COVID-19, including:



- facility reopening and operating costs;
- emergency planning and response costs;
- bylaw enforcement costs;
- costs of policing, fire protection and other protective services;
- costs of programs and services for persons living with disabilities, mental illness or addictions, or persons experiencing homelessness or other vulnerable persons;
- computer and other electronic technology costs;
- budgeted revenues that have not been collected.

To ensure full transparency, local governments will be required to annually report on the use of this funding until the funds are fully utilized.

The apportionment for municipalities \(\mathbb{S}.12 \) will be calculated on a base amount plus an adjusted population which provides more money to larger communities but a higher per capita level of funding to smaller and mid-sized communities that lack a diverse revenue base or economies-of-scale to easily restart their operations.

s.12

Proposed payment amounts for

municipalities and regional districts are outlined in Attachments 1 and 2.

Once the Minister approves the amount of the grant, this grant will require direct correspondence plus other informal communications (e.g. follow-up phone calls) with local governments. Also, the actual payments to local governments should be issued no later than January 2021. The latest date of January 2021 is recommended to meet financial accounting practices to ensure the expenditure occurs by the 2020/21 fiscal yearend and aligns with provincial treasury financing requirements.

Many local governments have expressed a keen interest in knowing the amounts of the grants so that they can plan and manage their current year and next year's budget based on the amount. It is likely that local governments will anticipate the actual payments before January 2021, given awareness of the available funding and its importance to local recovery efforts.

s.13; s.14

Regarding the timing of payment and associated correspondence to individual local governments, Ministry staff have worked out a rough timeline on this process and estimate up to 5 working days to final payment from approval of this note:

- Entry, batching, and sign-off of individual payments in the Ministry's LG Information System, which
 records all grants and serves as the basis for Financial Services Branch to code payments into the
 government's corporate accounts system (CAS).
- Data entry and sign-off in CAS.



- Preparation of associated correspondence for local governments, including the preparation and approval of a merge letter and merge database, and the send-out of correspondence to individual local governments.
- Final payment through EFT

LEGAL ADVICE:

s.13; s.14

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The approval of this note will provide for the payment of \$394M to municipalities and a further \$21M to regional districts. Half (50%) of this amount will be recovered from the Federal Government.





s.13

APPROVED (OPTION 1) NOT APPROVED

Honourable Selina Robinson

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

October 30, 2020

Date



Attachments:

1. Payments to municipalities and regional districts

2. s.13; s.14

PREPARED BY:

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Tara Faganello, Assistant Deputy Minister Local Government Division

Kaye Krishna, Deputy Minister

DATE APPROVED:

October 27, 2020



ATTACHMENT 1: Payments to Municipalities

Municipalities	Total Funding
100 Mile House	752,000
Abbotsford	8,338,000
Alert Bay	315,000
Anmore	882,000
Armstrong	1,608,000
Ashcroft	659,000
Barriere	730,000
Belcarra	380,000
Bowen Island	1,273,000
Burnaby	9,827,000
Burns Lake	732,000
Cache Creek	461,000
Campbell River	4,618,000
Canal Flats	
	381,000
Castlegar	2,184,000
Central Saanich	3,455,000
Chase	879,000
Chetwynd	955,000
Chilliwack	6,488,000
Clearwater	894,000
Clinton	373,000
Coldstream	2,623,000
Colwood	3,476,000
Comox	3,067,000
Coquitlam	8,293,000
Courtenay	4,149,000
Cranbrook	3,765,000
Creston	1,648,000
Cumberland	1,312,000
Dawson Creek	2,793,000
Delta	7,059,000
Duncan	1,570,000
Elkford	938,000
Enderby	1,062,000
	3,538,000
Esquimalt	
Fernie	1,597,000
Fort St. James	666,000
Fort St. John	3,778,000
Fraser Lake	485,000
Fruitvale	787,000
Gibsons	1,512,000
Gold River	557,000
Golden	1,263,000
Grand Forks	1,359,000
Granisle	264,000
Greenwood	381,000
Harrison Hot Springs	675,000
Hazelton	268,000
Highlands	897,000
Hope	1,833,000
Houston	1,066,000
Hudson's Hope	499,000
Invermere	1,181,000

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Municipalities	Total Funding
Kamloops	6,680,000
Kaslo	480,000
Kelowna	7,884,000
Kent	1,826,000
Keremeos	659,000
Kimberley	2,087,000
Kitimat	2,176,000
Ladysmith	2,343,000
Lake Country	2,947,000
Lake Cowichan	1,158,000
Langford	4,878,000
Langley (C)	4,151,000
Langley (D)	7,608,000
Lantzville	1,220,000
Lillooet	880,000
Lions Bay	603,000
Logan Lake	816,000
Lumby	764,000
Lytton	248,000
Mackenzie	1,244,000
Maple Ridge	6,417,000
Masset	429,000
McBride	366,000
Merritt	2,005,000
Metchosin	1,540,000
Midway	377,000
Mission	4,964,000
Montrose	485,000
Nakusp	692,000
Nanaimo	6,693,000
Nelson	2,613,000
New Denver	323,000
New Hazelton	357,000
New Westminster	6,052,000
North Cowichan	4,419,000
North Saanich	2,711,000
North Vancouver (D)	6,484,000
North Vancouver (C)	5,434,000
Northern Rockies	1,507,000
Oak Bay	3,589,000
Oliver	1,591,000
Osoyoos	1,539,000
Parksville	2,861,000
Peachland	1,650,000
Pemberton	987,000
Penticton	4,711,000
Pitt Meadows	3,656,000
Port Alberni	3,536,000
Port Alice	386,000
Port Clements	259,000
Port Coquitlam	5,622,000
Port Edward	317,000
Port Hardy	1,376,000
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Port McNeill

Municipalities Port Moody Pouce Coupe	Total Funding
Pouce Coupe	4,647,000
	426,000
Powell River	2,928,000
Prince George	6,110,000
Prince Rupert	2,799,000
Princeton	1,013,000
Qualicum Beach	2,359,000
Queen Charlotte	435,000
Quesnel	2,503,000
Radium Hot Springs	459,000
Revelstoke	2,105,000
Richmond	9,331,000
Rossland	1,257,000
Saanich	7,453,000
Salmo	533,000
Salmon Arm	3,598,000
Sayward	268,000
Sechelt	2,563,000
Sechelt (IG)	387,000
Sicamous	927,000
Sidney	2,758,000
Silverton	231,000
Slocan	262,000
Smithers	1,656,000
Sooke	2,981,000
Spallumcheen	1,604,000
Sparwood	1,282,000
Squamish	3,760,000
Stewart	366,000
Summerland	2,724,000
Sun Peaks	387,000
Surrey	14,769,000
Tahsis	249,000
Taylor	644,000
Telkwa	602,000
Terrace	2,728,000
Tofino	822,000
Trail	2,115,000
Tumbler Ridge Ucluelet	827,000
	764,000
Valemount	501,000
Vancouver	16,371,000
Vanderhoof	1,438,000
Vernon	4,997,000
Victoria	6,522,000
View Royal	2,613,000
Warfield	710,000
Wells	241,000
West Kelowna	4,602,000
	5,068,000
West Vancouver	
Whistler	2,685,000
Whistler White Rock	3,769,000
Whistler	

888,000



ATTACHMENT 1 (continued) - Payments to Regional Districts

	s.13
Regional Districts	
Alberni-Clayoquot	485,000
Bulkley-Nechako	583,000
Capital	1,421,000
Cariboo	837,000
Central Coast	340,000
Central Kootenay	760,000
Central Okanagan	1,107,000
Columbia Shuswap	645,000
Comox Valley	723,000
Cowichan Valley	903,000
East Kootenay	641,000
Fraser Valley	1,362,000
Fraser-Fort George	747,000
Kitimat-Stikine	559,000
Kootenay Boundary	489,000
Metro Vancouver	2,325,000
Mount Waddington	367,000
Nanaimo	1,169,000
North Coast	390,000
North Okanagan	741,000
Okanagan-Similkamee	773,000
Peace River	700,000
Qathet	424,000
Squamish-Lillooet	502,000
Strathcona	539,000
Sunshine Coast	521,000
Thompson-Nicola	947,000



s.13; s.14



s.13; s.14



s.13; s.14