

District of Barriere
REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date: February 26, 2024	File:
To: Council	From: T. Buchanan, Acting CAO
Re: LGDAP Grant Application Submission (2024 intake)	

Background: In 2019, the Province launched the Development Approvals Process Review (DAPR), which involved extensive consultations with government and stakeholders. This effort generated a comprehensive list of ideas to streamline and expedite the development approvals process. As part of this initiative, the Local Government Development Approvals Program (LGDAP) was established to assist municipalities in implementing the DAPR recommendations.

The Ministry of Housing has allocated an additional \$10 million in funding through the LGDAP for a 2024 intake administered by UBCM. The intake period for 2024 is from January 1, 2024, to March 8, 2024, with an application deadline of March 8, 2024. Funding decisions will be made within 90 days of the application deadline, and all funded activities must be completed within one year of receiving funding approval.

The LGDAP can cover up to 100% of eligible activity costs, with a maximum contribution of \$150,000. Eligible expenditures include the incremental costs of staff and administration, consultant fees, public information expenses, honoraria for equity-denied populations, and costs related to developing culturally appropriate education and engagement materials.

Activities Eligible for Funding

- Developing, reviewing and/or updating internal development approvals processes to improve efficiency and effectiveness;
- Developing, reviewing and/or updating development approvals guidance for staff and/or applicants;
- Reviewing and making recommendations to improve development approval procedures bylaw;
- Reviewing zoning bylaw and other zoning bylaws and providing recommendations to improve development approval processes;
- Facilitate collaboration or coordination with external partners (development community, First Nations, provincial Ministry and other local governments); and
- Developing communication materials, user guidelines.

Ineligible Costs and Activities

- Purchasing, developing, or implementing new or upgraded digital platforms;

- Develop or update of housing needs reports, official community plans, master plans, zoning bylaws, etc.;
- Routine or ongoing operating costs or activities
- Routine or ongoing planning costs or planning activities that are not incremental to the project;
- Regular salaries and/or benefits of staff or partners;
- Development of architectural, engineering, or other design drawings for the construction or renovation of facilities;
- Capital costs (including computer hardware or software), and
- Purchase of promotional items, door/raffle prizes, give-away items, and/or gifts for community members.

Discussion: District staff are recommending that the following grant application be submitted under this funding program:

The current planning application forms originated in 2009, predating the adoption of the current Zoning Bylaw in 2014. Additionally, Development Approval Procedures Bylaw No. 0049 was enacted in 2009. As the District is planning to begin the process of a Subdivision and Development Approvals Bylaw re-write, there is an opportunity for the District to undertake a fully-funded review of the development approvals process, aiming to modernize and streamline the operations of the process. This review could lead to the establishment of internal systems focused on ongoing enhancements to planning and development services.

Recommendations: THAT Council direct staff to submit an application for grant funding of up to \$150,000 to improve development approvals processes through the Local Government Development Approvals Program (2024 intake)

Prepared by: T. Buchanan, Acting CAO