

District of Barriere

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date: December 19, 2022	File: 530.20/Rpts
To: Council	From: Bob Payette, CAO
Re: BC Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP)	

Background: On November 15th, 2022, the Province announced the B.C. Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP).

Discussion:

The Government of B.C. is investing up to \$33 million this year to create the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program, which will support projects that promote the following:

- Economic diversification
- Resilience
- Clean growth opportunities
- Infrastructure development

The REDIP is a funding program that aims to support rural economic development projects that promote economic capacity building, economic diversification, resilience, clean economy opportunities and infrastructure development.

Economic Diversification (REDIP-ED) will fund 80% of projects with up to \$1 million that plan and/or implement programs, services, and infrastructure to support economic development and diversification. This stream is available for rural communities under 25,000 population for up to \$1,000,000.

Staff are recommending upgrades and renovation to a District-owned 9000 square foot vacant commercial building known as the HYL Building (old grocery store that has been vacant for over 10 years) that is located in the downtown core, to house new full service municipal economic development office/meeting space, Chamber of Commerce offices and space within the facility for a community business hub. The offices, storage would occupy approximately 5000 square feet on the south side of the building. The remaining 4000 square feet will contain the separate community rental business space and business support component on the north side. The current structure has been assessed by a structural engineer as structurally sound for renovation and re-purposing. New HVAC, plumbing, and electrical fixtures would be required. Power, water, and sanitary lines will need to be brought into the building. The new design layout of the existing building has been completed. The roof has recently been upgraded in order to preserve the integrity of the building for future use.

Recommendation: THAT Council authorize the submission of a grant application, for up to \$1,200,000 to the REDIP-ED with a 80/20 financial split for the renovation of the HYL building.

Prepared by: Bob Payette, CAO