

District of Barriere
REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date: May 3, 2021	File: 530.20/Rpts
To: Council	From: Bob Payette, CAO
Re: UBCM Local Government Development Approvals Grant Application Submission - Resolution	

Background: The UBCM Local Government Development Approvals Grant program is designed to support municipalities in making their development approval process more efficient. The grant will cover 100% of costs. The Program requires a resolution from Council indicating support for the proposed activities and a willingness to provide overall grant management.

Discussion:

In 2019, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs initiated the Development Approvals Process Review (DAPR). The Ministry engaged local governments and a broad range of stakeholders to discuss the challenges of current development approvals processes in B.C., to identify opportunities for addressing those challenges, and to develop an informed list of ideas about how to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of processes. A summary report of engagement findings identified several key themes.

The Ministry intends to move forward on initiatives that draw upon these, which may include work on development finance tools, public input processes and provincial referrals, in collaboration with local governments, the development sector and other stakeholders.

The Local Government Development Approvals Program, a component of the Canada-BC Safe Restart Agreement, is one element in addressing the DAPR Report findings.

The need for an efficient and streamlined development approvals process in Barriere is being emphasized by a recent surge in development activity within the District. It is also noted that prior to incorporation in 2007, development approvals in Barriere were handled by the Thompson Nicola Regional District (TNRD). Our current processes are still largely based on those inherited from the Regional District and there is a need to develop an approach more customized to Barriere as an incorporated municipality.

Local Government Development Approvals Program

The development approvals process refers to all operational steps and decision making in relation to a local government's consideration of approving development, from the pre-application phase to the issuance of the building permit. The local government's review process ensures that development applications conform to policies, plans, and regulations for

building and development – such as those contained in Official Community Plans, Zoning Bylaws, and Subdivision and Development Servicing Bylaws.

The intent of the Local Government Development Approvals Program is to support the implementation of established best practices and to test innovative approaches to improve development approvals processes while meeting local government planning and policy objectives.

Staff have contacted Urban Systems to assist in this project.

Recommendation: THAT Council direct staff to apply for up to \$75,000 in funding from UBCM Local Government Development Approvals Grant Application Submission, and

THAT the District of Barriere commits to conducting the following activities in its proposed project submitted to the UBCM Local Government Development Approvals Program to advance our development approvals processes and procedures:

- 1) Review and update the District's Development Approval Procedures Bylaw.**
- 2) Develop a Development Procedures Manual.**
- 3) Ensure alignment between the District's various development approvals processes and the District's building permit process.**
- 4) Review and update the District's Zoning Bylaw with the aim of reducing common variances.**
- 5) Undertake a review of the District's Development Permit (DP) guidelines to ensure a clear decision-making framework is in place. This will include exploring the potential delegation of some DP approvals to District staff, with the goal of reducing the burden on Council for the approval of minor DP applications.**
- 6) Create brochures which clearly outline the various development applications/processes.**
- 7) Develop application forms for the various development approvals applications.**
- 8) Review the District's agency referrals process, with a specific focus on ensuring Simpcw First Nation is appropriately included in the referrals process.**
- 9) Undertake staff workshops to review updated documents and processes.**

Prepared by: Bob Payette, CAO