

# Report

**City of Merritt**  
**REGULAR Council Meeting**  
**January 14, 2020**

**File Number: 1853**

**To:** Scott Hildebrand, Chief Administrative Officer

**From:** Sheila Thiessen, Director of Finance & IT

**Date:** January 8, 2020

**Subject:** 2020 Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Mapping and Flood Mitigation Planning Grant Application

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT Council support the City's application for \$150,000 from the 2020 Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for Flood Mapping;**

**AND THAT Council directs staff to handle the application and provide overall grant management if the application is successful.**

**Background:**

In January 2019, the City of Merritt applied to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) for \$150,000 for funds for flood mitigation planning. That application wasn't successful, and Council resolved to use gas tax funds to do the required flood mitigation planning for the Voght Corner design and subsequent grant application for flood mitigation infrastructure funding.

One of the possible reasons for not receiving the funds in the last round is that there were some regional initiatives in progress that could be a duplication of effort.

The Fraser Basin Council, through the Thompson Flood/Disaster Mitigation Advisory Committee has been coordinating flood risk prioritization, assessment, LiDAR acquisition and flood mapping in the Thompson River Watershed since late 2017. This has involved local governments (including Merritt), First Nations and the province (FLNRORD, EMBC, MOTI) in a watershed-wide, comprehensive approach.

The City, with Council's approval would apply for the CEPF for \$150,000 for flood mapping, and if successful, those funds would be leveraged through the work of the Fraser Basin and Committee to provide detailed flood hazard maps that are required to make informed decisions about public safety, development, bylaw implementation and mitigation planning.

The regional approach to this project will result in more seamless regional flood mapping and will address impacts both upstream (Nicola Lake Dam) and downstream.

### **Options / discussion**

1. Council can direct staff to proceed with the application for CEPF funding in the amount of \$150,000 for Flood Mapping.
2. Council can receive this report for information.
3. Council can direct staff to apply for an independent project.

### **Financial / Risk Implications:**

The CEPF for Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Mapping & Flood Mitigation Planning is open until January 24, 2020. Working with the Fraser Basin Council and the Thompson Flood/Disaster Mitigation Advisory Committee and leveraging the work being done in the watershed will result in comprehensive flood mapping that is seamless with the regional mapping and will provide information for future decisions of Council related to development, mitigation and other items related to the rivers that run through Merritt.

### **Strategic Priorities:**

Flood mitigation and control is one of Council's top priorities.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Sheila Thiessen, CPA, CMA  
Director of Finance & IT**