



# Report

**City of Merritt**  
**REGULAR Council Meeting**  
**October 22, 2019**

**File Number: 1854**

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

**From:** Jim Dinwoodie, Director of Engineering & Development

**Date:** October 17, 2019

**Subject:** UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Grant Application

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT Council support of the City of Merritt's application to the UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund - Structural Flood Mitigation Grant intake, to complete the Voght Street Corner flood upgrade project;**

**AND THAT Council indicate willingness to provide overall grant management for this project.**

## **Background:**

Staff have been working to prepare a grant application for the UBCM Emergency Preparedness Fund grant, which could provide up to \$750,000 towards flood mitigation works. To access these funds, the City of Merritt is required to include in the grant application a council resolution indicating support for the current proposed activities and willingness to provide overall grant management.

At City Council's strategic planning session in July of 2019, Council identified Flood Mitigation planning as its highest priority. In particular, the "Voght Street Corner" (Voght

Reviewed by:			
Director, Corp. Services Approved - Sean Smith	Director, Finance & IT Not yet approved	Director, Engineering & Development Not yet approved	Chief Administrative Officer: Choose an item.

Street between Second and Blackwell Avenues) was of great concern, given the importance of the road as a transportation corridor and its susceptibility to overland flood. In 2018, a portion of the Voght Street Corner was made impassable as a result of the severe flooding of the Nicola River caused by Spring Freshet events. Further, the flooding of Voght street was a primary contributor to the flooding of multiple homes that occurred on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.

The City of Merritt has hired numerous engineering firms to develop a flood mitigation plan to protect this critical transportation corridor from future flooding events. AllNorth Engineering has completed a design to protect Voght Street which includes raising the roadway's elevation by up to 0.75 m and armoring the Nicola River bank with rock.

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

The estimated cost of completing this flood mitigation work is \$1,967,972.63. If the grant is obtained (and the City is unsuccessful in obtaining other grant funding), the City would be responsible for the remaining \$1,217,972.63 in costs.

Funding for the remainder could come from a variety of sources including; Gas Tax Reserve, borrowing, other reserves and surpluses.

For Council's information, if utilities on are also replaced, the total estimated cost of this project would be \$3,150,214.88, though the cost of the utilities cannot be considered as part of the project costs for the purposes of this grant.

### **Strategic Plan Reference:**

Developing flood mitigation plans was identified as City Council's highest corporate priority at the July 2019 Strategic Priority planning session.

### **Others Consulted:**

AllNorth Engineering Ltd  
Nova Pacific Environmental Ltd  
LCI Engineering Group

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Jim Dinwoodie**  
**Director of Engineering and Development**