



# Report

**City of Merritt**  
**REGULAR Council Meeting**  
**November 12, 2019**

**File Number: 1853**

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

**From:** Will George, Economic Development & Tourism Manager

**Date:** November 6, 2019

**Subject:** Community Wellness and Harm Reduction Grant Application

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT Council directs staff to apply for the 2020 Community Wellness and Harm Reduction Grant for \$50,000 and supports the proposed projects.**

## **Background:**

During UBCM, the City of Merritt was made aware of the Community Action Initiative (CAI), Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions (MMHA) and Overdose Emergency Response Centre (OERC) Community Wellness and Harm Reduction Grant opportunities. In response to this opportunity, City staff along with the City of Merritt Community Grant Writer has completed a grant application titled "Never Alone with Addiction" in preparation for the upcoming November 18<sup>th</sup> deadline.

The "Never Alone with Addiction" grant application is requesting \$50,000 to enhance knowledge, skills and resources for individuals, families and our community to reduce overdose deaths and reduce harms associated with substance use. A breakdown of milestones and action items to be completed if the funding is successful can be found on page 5 of the grant application. The project team includes representatives from: The City of Merritt Community Policing Office, Interior Health, ASK Wellness Society, Nicola Valley Shelter and Support Society and the Scw'exmx Community Health Services Society.

### **Options / discussion**

1. Council approves the application for the 2020 Community Wellness and Harm Reduction Grant for \$50,000 and supports the proposed projects.
2. Council receives this report for information.

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

If successful, the City of Merritt would receive a grant for \$50,000. The City of Merritt and the project team organizations would be providing in-kind support as listed in the grant application. Staff time would be required to manage the project and report out on project updates.

### **Strategic Plan Reference:**

The below tourism related tactics are identified in the NOW section of Council's Strategic Priorities:

- #3. Economic Development Strategy: Review / Direction
- #5. Youth Advisory Committee
- #6. Downtown Revitalization Plan: Terms of Reference

The following tourism related items are listed in the NEXT section of Council's Strategic Priorities:

- Communication Strategic Plan: Framework
- Official Community Plan Review: Terms of Ref.

City of Merritt Strategic Plans relating to Tourism includes:

- City of Merritt Economic Development Action Plan- 2014/2015
- City of Merritt Official Community Plan
- City of Merritt Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan – 2017
- Our Merritt: Age-Friendly Action Plan - 2016
- City of Merritt – City Centre Improvement Plan – 2008

### **Others Consulted:**

- Marlene Jones, City of Merritt Community Policing Office
- Maja Karlsson, Interior Health
- Keri Cooke, ASK Wellness Society
- Andree Harley, Nicola Valley Shelter and Support Society
- Jim Adams, Scw'exmx Community Health Services Society

**Attachments:**

The following documents are attached:

- Community Wellness and Harm Reduction Grant Application sections 1-9
- Community Wellness and Harm Reduction Grant Application – NAWA – narrative

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Will George**

**Economic Development, Communications and Tourism Manager**