

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: July 8, 2024
To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Karmen Krueger, CPA, CA, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer
Report Number: COU24-072
Attachments: None

Title: Canada Community-Building Fund

Objective: To seek Council approval to enter into the new funding agreement with His Majesty the King for the Canada Community-Building Fund.

Background: The Canada Community-Building Fund is administered on behalf of the Federal government by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO). It has recently undergone some administrative changes and a new agreement has come forward from the Federal government that requires signing by each municipality.

The City has received their allocation details until 2028, as noted below. These allocations are not affected by the new agreement.

2024 - \$2,089,636.18

2025 – \$2,176,704.36

2026 - \$2,176,704.36

2027 - \$2,263,772.53

2028 - \$2,263,772.53

Analysis: Changes that are reflected in the agreement include:

- **Resilience** - The disaster mitigation category is now the resilience category.
- **Staff costs** - Are now eligible – with limitations – under the capacity-building category only.
- **Equity** - Municipalities are expected to consider GBA+ lenses when undertaking projects. (Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus) is an analytical tool used to support the development of responsive and inclusive policies, programs, and other initiatives).

- **Record retention** - Municipalities must retain records for at least six years.
- **Housing needs assessments (HNAs)** - Are required for single-and lower-tier municipalities with a 2021 census population of 30,000 or more by March 31, 2025 (and are encouraged for other municipalities with housing pressures).
- **Housing outcomes resulting from CCBF investment** - Will need to be reported for each project that ended construction in the reporting year.
- **Some related costs are eligible for CCBF funding** - HNAs and studies, strategies, or systems related to housing or land use are eligible under the capacity-building category.
- **Incrementality** - CCBF funds are still expected to complement (without replacing or displacing) other sources of funding for municipal infrastructure –but you are no longer required to monitor a “base amount” or the incremental use of funds.
- **Insurance** - Still required –but you are no longer required to submit a Certificate of Insurance each year.
- **Wording** - Revised the wording –but not the content –of many sections to clarify requirements.

While there are many eligible categories for spending the funding including some enhanced eligible categories, the City has typically allocated CCBF funding to road and linear infrastructure projects for simplicity of reporting and because historically, the fund was only intended for roads. Practically, the largest investment need remains roads, so if the CCBF were to be allocated to some other type of eligible project, then the amount required for roads would have to come from some other source.

Financial Implications:

Financial impact to current year operating budget:

No direct financial implications for this agreement-related report. Should there be delays in submitting an executed agreement, AMO has advised that the July and November instalments could be withheld until the agreements are provided.

Financial impact on future year operating budget:

No direct financial implications for this agreement-related report.

Link to asset management plan and strategy:

This agreement does not have a direct link, however the funding the City receives makes a significant contribution to the capital program and long-term asset management strategy.

Legal considerations:

Not applicable.

Insurance considerations:

Not applicable.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Developing our Resources

Optimizing Stratford's physical assets and digital resources. Planning a sustainable future for Stratford's resources and environment.

Alignment with One Planet Principles:

Not applicable: This report does not have a direct connection to the One Planet Principles.

Staff Recommendation: THAT the entering into of the Municipal Funding Agreement on the Canada Community-Building Fund with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario be authorized;

THAT the Mayor and Clerk, or their respective delegates, be authorized to sign the Municipal Funding Agreement;

AND THAT the Clerk be directed to prepare a by-law authorizing the execution of the agreement.

Prepared by:	Karmen Krueger, CPA, CA, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer
Recommended by:	Karmen Krueger, CPA, CA, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer