



# Council Report

penticton.ca

**Date:** February 3, 2026 **File No:**  
**To:** Anthony Haddad, City Manager  
**From:** Amanda Newell, Emergency Program Manager  
**Subject:** **2026 Emergency Support Services Regional Grant Application**

## Staff Recommendation

THAT Council participate in a regional grant application with the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS), Town of Osoyoos, Town of Princeton, Town of Oliver, District of Summerland and the Village of Keremeos to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) for Emergency Support Services (ESS) Equipment and Training in the total amount of \$300,000.00;

AND THAT Council support the RDOS to apply for, receive, and manage grant funding on behalf of the City of Penticton ESS team.

## Strategic priority objective

**Vision:** Penticton is a connected, resilient and healthy waterfront city focused on safety, livability and vibrancy.

**Mission:** Penticton will serve its residents, businesses and visitors through organizational excellence, partnership and the provision of effective and community focused services.

**Safe & Resilient:** The City of Penticton will enhance and protect the safety of all residents and visitors to Penticton.

## Background

ESS volunteers play a critical role in supporting evacuees impacted by floods, fires and other emergencies. ESS provides necessary resources following a disaster for up to 72 hours and may include food, lodging, clothing and incidentals, emotional support, information about the crisis, and

family reunification. Special services such as first aid, childminding, and pet care may also be provided under the provincial ESS program.

The UBCM CEPF ESS funding stream is intended to support eligible applicants to build local capacity to provide emergency support services through training, volunteer recruitment and retention, and the purchase of equipment and supplies necessary to service delivery.

RDOS staff have prepared and submitted a joint application for the 2026 CEPF – ESS Grant for \$300,000 with the City of Penticton, the District of Summerland, the Village of Keremeos, the Town of Princeton, Town of Oliver and the Town of Osoyoos. The 2026 grant deliverables will contribute to increased ESS capacity for the City and throughout the region. The grant will provide funding to maintain the position of ESS Specialist at the RDOS, who will provide the administrative needs required to support our local volunteers. This includes coordinating the provision of equipment and supplies; operational readiness; training and exercises; recruitment, retention and recognition of our volunteers; and annual ESS conference costs. The grant will improve the consistency of ESS program delivery and foster collaboration throughout the region to subsequently build local response capacity.

### **Financial implication**

The CEPF is a suite of funding programs intended to support First Nations and local governments to better prepare for disasters and reduce risks from increasingly complex natural hazards in a changing climate. The ESS Equipment & Training grant can contribute 100% to cost eligible activities.

The grant application and management of the project will be administrated by the RDOS.

Funding allocation:

ESS Specialist Staff position -25%

Annual conference attendance (travel, accommodations, meals) – 20%

Operational Costs (Volunteer recruitment and retention, uniforms, ESSD stipends) – 20%

Training – 20%

Equipment and Supplies (IT upgrades, RC setup, etc) – 15%

### **Analysis**

In the last quarter of 2024, the City formalized a new agreement with the RDOS to provide oversight and coordination of Penticton’s ESS team. This agreement enhances the City’s ability to provide efficient, effective, reliable and consistent ESS for residents requiring support in the event they are required to evacuate their home. As part of this new arrangement, the RDOS will apply for joint ESS grants on behalf of the City and their five other partner communities to facilitate the delivery of the required provisions and ensure the team can operate effectively. This includes continued funding of a dedicated staff person at the RDOS, in the role of ESS Specialist, to provide oversight of Penticton’s ESS team as well as other teams around the region.

Safe & Resilient is one of Council’s priorities. Applying for the 2026 ESS grant will contribute to the City’s overall emergency preparedness by enhancing the readiness and response capabilities of the City’s ESS team. The grant will help the team obtain the resources, equipment and training required to maintain response capabilities and better equip day-to-day administration to increase the team’s capacity and operational readiness. It will also allow the team to continue to modernize processes and build efficiencies to support the community during responses.

As part of the RDOS’ joint grant application, all partnering municipalities, including the City of Penticton, must provide a Certified Resolution from Council in support of the application. Therefore, staff recommend that Council resolve to support the joint application for this UBCM grant for 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Newell  
Emergency Program Manager

Concurrence

Fire Chief  <i>ML</i>	City Manager  <i>AH</i>
-----------------------------	-------------------------------