



Community Projects – background and guidance related to the Community Forest Reserve Fund, grant applications, the evaluation criteria and the grant approval process.

Background

Profits from Powell River Community Forest Ltd (PRCF) forestry operations are returned to the community in the form of grants to support community projects. The City of Powell River has established the Community Forest Reserve Fund (the fund) to receive PRCF's annual dividend deposits. Dividends result from the PRCF board approving our audited yearend financials at the Annual General Meeting in the spring.

Community Forest Reserve Fund – City Bylaw # 2212 (2008)

“Money from the fund will be used for special community projects that will benefit the community as a whole. The money in the fund is not intended to be used for city operations or capital expenditures of a regular nature. Before any money is used from the fund the city will seek input from the PRCF board”

When PRCF presents the dividend to the City for deposit into the fund, the PRCF board generally announces grant recommendations for the majority of the funds. If further monies remain in the fund, then other recommendations may be made in the fall or other times throughout the year.

Grant Application Process

In terms of formal roles, the PRCF board makes recommendations for grants from the fund, City council approves those grants. Functionally, it is a collaborative process between PRCF reps and City staff.

We welcome new grant applications (and updates to existing applications) at any time. Grant applications must be copied to both the PRCF and City contacts below. Over time we expect to consider a wide range of grants for projects of different themes and sizes from both community groups and the City. There is no set distribution targets as PRCF's focus is on the best projects based on our evaluation criteria.

PRCF reps and city staff communicate on an ongoing basis to review the status of the fund, the progress of projects which previously received grants and the grant application list. We keep a "rolling" grant application list. Eligible projects not selected remain on the list for consideration for future grants.

Proponents are asked to take the time to prepare project plans which provide sufficient detail to evaluate the merits of the proposal. The application must clearly identify what aspects of the project are intended to be supported by the grant. For smaller scale projects, here is a *link* to a short form application.

Evaluation Criteria

To guide the PRCF board and City's staff's review of grant applications and inform proponents as to what are desirable attributes, PRCF identified the following evaluation criteria;

- ***The broader objective of the fund is to invest in projects which will provide sustainable benefits for the community***
- ***The allocation of funds must be consistent with the intent of the Community Forest Reserve Fund bylaw. That intent extends to applications from other public sector agencies and to a certain extent community groups.***
- ***Grant applications received for city projects are assumed to have the City's senior management support. We encourage a partnership approach between the city and its user groups. Under most situations the City will manage projects involving city facilities.***
- ***The grants are intended to support capital investment. A design/build approach may be considered but not feasibility studies, administration or ongoing operations. The fund is not intended to be used for donations or sponsorships.***
- ***Community Forest Reserve Funds may be identified to match or leverage funds from other sources such as provincial or federal infrastructure grants. PRCF is open to being a funding partner with other community entities which provide grants such as Rotary, First Credit Union, and the Community Foundation.***
- ***We encourage grant applications from community groups, non-profits, public sector agencies and local government.***
- ***Proponents should have a solid track record in the community and be a stable entity going forward.***
- ***The application should identify the level of community support that exists and why the project outcome will be considered a community asset.***

- ***We favor projects where the community group already has an investment in the project, has raised a portion of the project budget themselves or they have included a volunteer component.***
- ***We prefer to select community projects which are ready to be developed. Grant funds should be used in a timely, efficient manner.***
- ***We favor projects which create opportunities for local contractors, workers and suppliers and we encourage projects which demonstrate the use of locally manufactured wood products.***

Successful applicants will be contacted by the City and will receive the grant in two payments. Upon signing the funding servicing agreement, 70% of the grant amount is provided up front. The final 30% payment is provided upon completion of the project and submission of records of project expenditures. Monies not required to complete the intended scope of the project remain in the community forest reserve fund to be used for other community grants

Contact information

Applications may be submitted by mail or sent electronically to both;

Powell River Community Forest Ltd
 4760 Joyce Avenue
 Powell River, BC
 V8A 3B6
 attention; Greg Hemphill, President
greghemphill@telus.net 604-223-4887

City of Powell River
 6910 Duncan Street
 Powell River, BC
 V8A 1V4
 attention; Adam Langenmaier, Chief Financial Officer
alangenmaier@powellriver.ca 604-485-6291 loc.222