

District of Barriere
REPORT TO COUNCIL
Request for Decision

Date: October 7, 2024	
To: Council	From: D. Drexler, CAO
Re: ETSI-BC Building Economic Development Capacity Program Grant Application – Wayfinding Strategy/Plan	

Background: The ETSI-BC Building Economic Development Capacity Program provides non-repayable grants on a scheduled 'intake basis' supporting strategic investments to build economic capacity of small communities and support economic development projects that will have long-lasting and measurable benefits for the Southern Interior.

Discussion: This grant program prioritizes small, rural and First Nations communities to build economic development capacity and serve as a catalyst for new economic development initiatives. The program objectives are to:

- *Enhance the capacity of Southern Interior communities to fulfill their economic development aspirations and knowledge.*
- *Support local and regional economic development projects within the Southern Interior.*
- *Facilitate strategic partnerships and encourage collaboration between communities and economic development agencies.*

Partnering with our local Chamber of Commerce to develop a wayfinding strategy/plan to support community revitalization, aligns with the criteria for this funding stream set out above.

The project is 50/50 funded (\$25K ETSI, \$2,500 in-kind, \$22,500 other sources). The cost for a strategy is up to \$50K. A resolution of Council is required providing up to \$25K in support of the project. The Chamber has indicated that they will try to get more funding from other community organizations so the District's portion could be reduced. Should the grant be successful, the Chamber will manage the project and hire a consultant to facilitate the work. Developing this strategy/plan now provides a shelf ready project when an appropriate grant program becomes available to bring the project to fruition with the purchase of the wayfinding signage.

The application deadline is October 10th, 2024.

Recommendation: THAT Council authorize the Barriere Chamber of Commerce to apply for funding in the amount of \$50,000 on behalf of the District of Barriere to the ETSI-BC Building Economic Development Capacity Program to facilitate a community Wayfinding Strategy/Plan with the District of Barriere's portion of up to \$25,000 to be allocated in the 2025 budget process should the grant application be successful.

Prepared by: T. Buchanan, Corporate Officer
Reviewed by: D. Drexler, CAO