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## CITY OF KELOWNA

# MEMORANDUM

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**Date:** April 20, 2001  
**File No.:** 0410-01

**To:** City Manager

**From:** Director of Works and Utilities

**Subject:** Federal/Provincial Infrastructure Grants – 2001 Applications

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council endorse the following order of priorities for projects submitted for consideration of Grant applications:

- 1) Fitzpatrick(20A) Sewer Specified Area
- 2) Abbott Street Revitalization
- 3) McCurdy (21B) Sewer Specified Area
- 4) Rutland Arena Common Plant

### **DISCUSSION**

At the regular meeting of Council held March 5, 2001, Council approved priorities for Federal/Provincial grant applications. During the discussion of priorities it was identified that the grant program was broken into two areas, green projects (water, sewer) and other (Transportation, etc). With this in mind Council approved both the Fitzpatrick and the Abbott Street projects as 1<sup>st</sup> priority in their respective categories. Applications were then submitted to the province on this basis. On April 12, 2001 the City received communication from the Province advising that they wish the City to identify a singular priority one for consideration. They indicated that to be fully sensitive to community priorities they are advising communities to identify a singular first priority since many have submitted grant applications in the same way as Kelowna. For this reason, this report is brought to Council. Provincial staff has requested a response by April 24<sup>th</sup>.

When considering a recommendation to Council, staff has identified there are very strong benefits to both the Fitzpatrick and Abbott projects for very different reasons.

The Fitzpatrick (20A) sewer specified area is an area of Rutland, which is in need of sewer for existing homes. Survey results indicate some 27% of respondents were experiencing septic field problems. With a present charge of \$11,000 per household unit a grant would help reduce the costs considerably for individual property owners. Without a grant, property owners would have to pay the full cost. There is concern that without a grant sewer would be unaffordable for many property owners and therefore a future sewer specified area would be likely unsuccessful. The grant request was for a \$3.3 Million project.

The Abbott Street Recreation Corridor is a full urban renewal project from Mill Creek Bridge to Strathcona Park involving water and sewer pipe replacement, installation of storm drainage, full road urbanization with new curbs and asphalt, bike path, separate sidewalk, and landscaping. As a result of community input the project is also proposing enhanced landscaping, traffic

calming measures, decorative lighting and signage to reflect the areas' heritage character, benches and waste disposal for recreational users and potential future art sites. The project addresses present safety issues for cyclists, rollerbladers, and pedestrians as well extends the recreational corridor starting at Brandt's Creek through Waterfront and City Parks. It is believed that this project will be seen as a significant community feature. Prior to grants being available, the Works and Utilities Department envisioned the project to be done over a 2-3 year period within existing capital budgets. The availability of a grant will permit the project to be completed in a single year and also allow for many of the additional improvements requested by the community. The value of this project with all aspects included is \$5.2 Million.

It is opinion of staff that the Fitzpatrick project should be the first priority. This allows residents to continue to move forward with affordable sewers in Rutland and achieve an overall community environmental benefit. It is acknowledged that the Abbott project has a significant community benefit and a grant for this project would have benefits to the City's tax funded and utility funded budgets. However, recognizing the Abbott project already has potential funding sources and there is no other mechanism other than grants to assist properties to fund the cost of sewers it would be prudent to ensure that grants assist in areas where no other funding sources are available.

The opportunity exists for the City to continue to apply for additional grants under the Federal/Provincial program during the next few years. It may be possible to apply for components of the Abbot Street project in future years. Future application proposals will be brought to Council for consideration.

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John Vos

cc. Wastewater Manager