

May 19, 2021

Regional District of Nanaimo and District of Lantzville Approved for Emergency Support Services Training Grant

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) and District of Lantzville (Lantzville) are pleased to announce the approval of a \$30,139 grant for Emergency Support Services (ESS) training and equipment. The ESS grant, funded by the BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and administered by the Union of BC Municipalities, will enable the RDN and Lantzville to provide locally focused training to our ESS volunteers. The sessions will build upon their knowledge and experiences and provide opportunities to practice their learning through custom-designed exercises. The equipment being purchased through the grant will provide alignment with Emergency Management BC's new ESS electronic delivery platform.

"Ongoing training is an important component in the effective and efficient delivery of emergency support services," said Tyler Brown, RDN Chair. "With this grant, the RDN and Lantzville have the opportunity to provide volunteers with training in their own community that incorporates the latest emergency response best practices. This helps ensure our ESS teams are as prepared as possible in the case of an ESS activation in the RDN."

The training series will be designed with local procedures, regional hazards and the unique needs of the RDN and Lantzville ESS teams in mind. This will provide for scenarios which are more likely and applicable to our region, considers the volunteers who cannot access online training and enables real-time cross training with the RDN Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). In addition, the training will reflect the new virtual EOC environment and ongoing COVID safety practices.

"The District of Lantzville is pleased to be able to partner with the RDN in the training of our ESS volunteers," said Mark Swain, Mayor, District of Lantzville. "Emergencies and disasters don't follow jurisdictional borders. The ability for the ESS teams to train together will enhance regional preparedness and coordination."

Participants will have four full training days followed by two tabletop exercises with drills to reinforce their learning and build confidence in their skills. The exercises will explore a large wildfire evacuation from the ESS perspective and include vital topics such as existing capabilities, communication processes, how ESS connects to the larger Emergency Management program, health and safety of volunteers, and considerations regarding specialty populations.

Volunteers have a strong preference for in-person training. Local, in-person training sessions, when we can proceed with them, will help build team morale and lead to increased volunteer retention after a

Get Involved RDN!

challenging year. The sessions will be developed in such a way that they can be easily converted into a virtual platform if required.



The RDN and Lantzville will retain the training materials, enabling more cost-effective training delivery to volunteers over the long term. This project is fully funded by the grant with RDN Emergency Services staff coordinating the activities on behalf of the District of Lantzville and the RDN providing staff time as well as virtual and in-person meeting spaces as an in-kind contribution.

The RDN Emergency Program is critical to effectively mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from various emergencies within the region when they occur. The District of Lantzville has contracted with the RDN to coordinate the Lantzville Emergency Program, including recruitment and training of emergency support services community volunteers. Emergency Support Services volunteers assist at disaster sites and provide temporary essential basic needs for evacuees on site at reception centres (evacuation shelters) and group lodging centres. Interested in joining this dedicated team of volunteers? Email emergencyservices@rdn.bc.ca or call 250-390-6565. To learn more about Emergency Services in the RDN and District of Lantzville, visit rdn.bc.ca/emergency-services.



-30-

For more information, please contact:

Rebecca Taylor
Communications Coordinator
Regional District of Nanaimo

 250-390-6502
 rtaylor@rdn.bc.ca

Trudy Coates
Director of Corporate Administration
District of Lantzville

 250-933-8082
 tcoates@lantzville.ca

Get Involved RDN!