



Municipality of the District of Argyle

Item: Request for motion –
Canada Community Building
Fund Contract

Date: November 17, 2024

Vision statement

Argyle is the community of choice to invest, live and play.

Mission statement

Argyle invests time & talent in growth opportunities in fishing, tourism, and renewable energy sectors.

Argyle provides affordable taxation while providing safe and healthy communities and strives to engage and inform our residents on decisions that affect them most.

Argyle provides high class, accessible recreational and cultural facilities and helps celebrate its unique heritage and culture and welcomes new residents to our region.

CAO's Recommendation:

Recommend endorsement of the 10-year CCBF capital funding agreement. Staff will ensure compliance with the elements of the contract to secure funding.

Suggested motion:

Move to endorse the Canada Community Building Fund Contract.

Background:

All municipalities signed onto the Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF), otherwise known as Gas Tax Agreement, with the expiry of that prior contract occurring March 31, 2024. The attached agreement is the result of a negotiation between the Province of NS and the Government of Canada. The agreement is a necessary contract to receive the federal funds. Once NS completes its negotiation with the Federal Government, municipalities are then asked to sign with the Province of NS.

Keep in mind that the elements of the contract and determination of eligible criteria are a decision made between the province and the federal government. Here are some of the highlights of the contract:

- Contract Terms – 10 years 2024-2034
- Previous CCBF funds remaining would follow the conditions of the new agreement, not the old agreement.
- CCBF funding is federal funding, many projects have 50% federal limits on funding support.
- Consideration for Gender Based Analysis +when Argyle considers a project.
- Argyle must own the assets for at least 5 years after funding.
- Submit a 5-year Capital Investment Plan and Annual Expenditure Report annually, and progress on creating and updating an Asset Management Plan.
Where possible, prioritize growth in housing supply. A housing needs assessment shall be used by the Municipality to identify housing pressures related to infrastructure and capacity building pressures.
- Eligible **capital** projects – Local roads and bridges, Highways, Short-sea shipping, Short-line rail, Regional and local airports, Broadband connectivity, Public transit, Drinking water, Wastewater, Solid Waste, Community energy systems, Brownfield redevelopment, Sport infrastructure, Recreational infrastructure, Cultural infrastructure, Tourism infrastructure, Fire halls, Resilience and capacity building. Schedule B defines each category.
- CCBF cannot be used for any other purposes outside of the list above.
- Eligible expenses are generally capital based, including studies and specific training. Land purchases and operating costs are ineligible.

Legal review would have been completed by the province, and elements of the agreement have been pre-determined between the Province of NS and the Government of Canada. In the end, to sign this agreement is to receive annual funds, subject to the conditions of the contract. The signing of this agreement is more formality, as the contract is identical for all municipalities. Negotiations between municipalities and province are unlikely to effect decisions of the Government of Canada.

MGA considerations:

Provincial – municipal contracts are eligible actions. Section 65 outlines the authority to spend funds, and that they are to be for municipal purposes. The municipal item should be prioritized and budgeted.

Financial considerations:

The signing of the contract results in annual CCBF funding allocation of about \$360,000 per year, this amount may vary from time to time, and is dependent on uniform assessment, population and other factors. The method of calculation is dependent on the Province of NS. There have been 2 instances where the federal government doubled its investment in communities. These decisions are entirely federal government dependent.

CCBF was not fully spent at the end of March 2024. Argyle had \$634,000 remaining at that date and has budgeted the full amount to various projects.