

City Staff Report

Original signed by: Deputy City Manager Bolton

Report Date: February 10, 2021

Meeting Date: February 16, 2021

To: City Manager

From: Community Development Coordinator

Subject: Food Hub Phase 2 – Economic Infrastructure Grant

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to gain Council's approval to submit an application to Northern Development Initiative Trust's Economic Infrastructure grant.

Summary

The Economic Infrastructure grant will build upon the \$500,000 from the Ministry of Agriculture, and \$250,000 from the 2020 Northern Development Initiative Trust grant. The funding will be used to implement phase 2 of the Food Hub.

Phase 1 of the Food Hub included renovations to the space leased at 101 Marsh Drive, and purchase of basic equipment including: a range, combi-oven, dishwasher, walk in cooler and freezer, exhaust hood, planetary mixer, reach in refrigerator, sinks, and some shelving and work tables.

This project will encompass the capital purchase of further equipment identified in the Implementation Plan, including:

- Co-packing equipment;
- Food lab testing equipment;
- Specialized equipment for food processing, including a tilting kettle, industrial dehydrator, proofer cabinet, apple chipper, fruit and vegetable slicer, etc.;
- Small-wares and utensils;
- Additional work stations, work tables, lockable storage cabinets and shelving.

Recommendation

THAT Quesnel City Council supports the application to the Northern Development Initiative Trust Economic Infrastructure stream from the Cariboo Chilcotin Lillooet Regional Development fund for the Food Hub Phase 2 project.

Council Policy

N/A

Strategic Objective

7.2.1 Build and launch Food Hub

The Food Hub aligns with the City's Economic Development Transition Strategy, specifically:

3.3.2. Business Retention, Expansion, and Attraction

3.2.2 Agriculture



Financial Implications

- For the purpose of this application, the 30% contribution from the City will be allocated from the funding provided by the Ministry of Agriculture for the implementation of the Food Hub;
- A grant application to the Local Food Infrastructure Fund is concurrently being submitted, and if approved, it will be leveraged to cover this 30% contribution in place of the Ministry of Agriculture funding.

	City of Quesnel	NDIT	Total
Food Hub Phase 2	\$33,857 (Using Ministry of Agriculture funding)	\$79,000	\$112,857

Background

- Northern Development Initiative Trust's Economic Infrastructure program supports major infrastructure projects which aim to strengthen and grow local economies. The program supports multi-use facilities or capital investments that drive revenue or job creation and provide a long-term asset for the community. The program will cover 70% of eligible project expenses, to a maximum of \$100,000.
- The City received \$500,000 from the Ministry of Agriculture for the implementation of a Food Innovation Hub, Sprout Kitchen. This money has been well used in obtaining a business case and in leveraging for grant opportunities.
- In 2020, Northern Development Initiative Trust approved \$250,000 towards the renovations required to open the Food Hub.
- A building lease has been obtained, and the phase 1 of the Food Hub is schedule to be complete, with the Food Hub opening in March, 2021.
- The City is applying for a Local Food Infrastructure Fund and a Job Creation Partnership project, in tandem with this Economic Infrastructure grant, to fully implement phase 2 of the Food Hub and the addition of a co-packing pilot program.

Concurrence

Manager of Economic Development and Tourism