



VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE REPORT TO COUNCIL

To: Mayor and Council
From: CAO / CFO
Date: October 22, 2025
Subject: Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program

The Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program is accepting applications until October 31, 2025. The program has undergone some changes and the funding categories are now Capacity: Up to \$250,000 in funding over three years, Development: Up to \$100,000 (80% share) in funding and Implementation: Up to \$1,000,000 in funding (60% share). Municipalities can apply to one stream only.

The eligibility requirements have also changed with more emphasis placed on population size and remoteness.

When the Village of Port Alice met with the Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth at UBCM we asked if we could apply for the Capacity funding again since we had previously received funding for the Economic Development Officer and we were told that we definitely could.

The Capacity grant aims to build the economic capacity of small rural communities to provide or improve their ability to support economic diversification. Max Funding \$50,000 per year for three years. Funded applicants will also be eligible to access up to \$100,000 in milestone-based development stream funding based on the submission and approval of required reporting.

I would like to apply for capacity funding to continue the Economic Development Officer position. The Village of Port Alice is recovering economically from the loss of the Mill with grant funded projects, new business start-ups and investments. These were possible because of the work done by the Economic Development Officer and there is more work that can be done.

RECOMMENDATION: *THAT the Village of Port Alice apply to the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program for Capacity funding to continue to support the Economic Development Officer position and **FURTHER THAT** the Village of Port Alice will provide overall grant management and will be responsible for any cost overrun.*

Bonnie Danik
CAO / CFO