



## REPORT

Report Date: January 14, 2020  
Contact: Albert Shames  
Contact No.: 604.873.7300  
RTS No.: 13551  
VanRIMS No.: 13-6000-02  
Meeting Date: February 11, 2020  
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Vancouver City Council  
FROM: General Manager of Engineering Services  
SUBJECT: 2020 Street Cleaning Grants

### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council approve the 2020 Street Cleaning Grant Program totalling \$1,840,000 to the following recipients for programs that support improvements to street cleanliness, as detailed in the report, with funding from the approved 2020 Street Cleaning and 2020 Plaza Stewardship operating budgets:

- Save Our Living Environment – United We Can (\$398,600)
- Coast Mental Health Foundation – Employment Services Program (\$566,000)
- Mission Possible Compassionate Ministries Society – MP Maintenance (\$681,000)
- Family Services of Greater Vancouver – Street Youth Job Action (\$73,100)
- The Kettle Friendship Society – SEED Employment Program (\$48,800)
- Tides Canada Initiatives Society - The Binners' Project (\$55,000)
- Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative – The Rat Project (\$17,500).

Approval of this grant recommendation requires at least 2/3 affirmative votes of all Council members under Section 206 (1) of the *Vancouver Charter*.

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

This report recommends grants to seven non-profit agencies totalling \$1,840,000 for supplementary street cleaning services, waste diversion initiatives and related research for 2020. The provision of these grants:

- Results in job support and life skills training opportunities for youth and adults with employment barriers;
- Assists the recipients with leveraging additional funding;

- Results in cleaner streets and lanes for communities where there is the greatest need;
- Results in partnerships with BIA's to support business area cleaning programs;
- Supports socially inclusive waste diversion initiatives; and
- Supports work aimed at more effectively addressing challenges related to rat populations in the City through the Vancouver Rat Project.

The services provided by the non-profit agencies are outside the scope and in addition to work performed by City staff.

### ***COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS***

On November 3, 2015 Council adopted the Greenest City Action Plan 2015-2020 Strategy as the second phase of the Greenest City 2020 Action Plan, including actions to reduce street litter and abandoned garbage in public spaces.

In July 2011, the Greenest City Action Plan passed and included a goal of supporting a green economy along with a target to double the number of green jobs over 2010 levels.

In July 2014, the Healthy City Strategy passed and included a goal of Making Ends Meet along with a target to reduce poverty.

In March 2014, the Downtown Eastside Local Area Plan passed which identified the need to support opportunities for low barrier employment and other community economic development initiatives.

### ***CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS***

The General Manager of Engineering Services recommends approval of the Street Cleaning Grant Program for 2020. This is a long-standing program with significant social and environmental benefits, complimenting efforts of the Greenest City Action Plan, Healthy City Strategy and related initiatives, including the DTES Local Area Plan. The recommendations outlined in this report will provide continuity of existing micro-cleaning programs, support BIA's citywide in dealing with litter challenges, support waste diversion initiatives involving the binning community, provide job support and life skills training opportunities for youth and adults with employment barriers, and assist in developing strategies aimed at addressing challenges related to rat populations in the City.

### ***REPORT***

#### ***Background/Context***

To supplement the City's street cleaning services, for the past 21 years Council has approved annual grants to non-profit agencies that have the capacity to provide micro-cleaning services. Micro-cleaning involves daily collection of litter and needles on foot using brooms, shovels and wheeled garbage carts, and is work that is outside the scope of services provided by the City's forces. In addition, the grant program supports initiatives involving the local binning community and assists in developing strategies to address challenges with rat populations.

Grants for work performed in 2019 were awarded as follows:

Organization	Recipient Since	2019 Total Award
Save Our Living Environment - United We Can	1999	<b>\$387,000</b>
Coast Mental Health Foundation – Employment Services Program	2008	<b>\$477,350</b>
Mission Possible Compassionate Ministries Society – MP Maintenance	2016	<b>\$552,350</b>
Family Services of Greater Vancouver – Street Youth Job Action	2007	<b>\$71,000</b>
Kettle Friendship Society – SEED Employment Program	2009	<b>\$47,300</b>
Tides Canada Initiatives Society – The Binners’ Project	2016	<b>\$55,000</b>
Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative –Vancouver Rat Project	2018	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>Grant Programs – Total</b>		<b>\$1,615,000</b>

2019 grant funding resulted in the following:

- micro-cleaning in an area covering almost 7 km<sup>2</sup> and within 22 BIA's;
- provision of approximately 65,100 low-threshold employment hours; and
- collection of 19,000 bags of litter and 111,000 needles.

In addition to achieving cleaner streets, these grants support employment and life skills training for local community residents. The grant program provides linkages with the following Council priorities and corporate strategies:

- Low threshold employment supports an inclusive city and helps marginalized individuals to become more self-reliant, contributing to the goals of making ends meet, reducing poverty and ending street homelessness; and
- Cleaner streets promotes a safe and welcoming public realm, shows a commitment to protecting the environment, helps convey “Greenest City”, and supports Healthy City objectives of creating environments to thrive in.

### **Strategic Analysis**

#### **2020 Program**

Increased funding recommended for 2020 will cover additional program costs due to the minimum wage increase in June 2020, and is also estimated to provide an additional 4,100 hours of gainful employment and an additional 6% in the amount of litter recovered from City streets and lanes.

For 2020 staff recommend the following grants:

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Recommended 2020 Grant</b>
United We Can	-Micro-cleaning (DTES)	<b>\$398,600</b>
Coast Foundation	-Micro-cleaning (DTES)	<b>\$127,320</b>
	-Mobile BIA Program	<b>\$318,605</b>
	-Priority Area Program	<b>\$120,075</b>
Mission Possible	-Micro-cleaning (Kingsway/Broadway)	<b>\$127,320</b>
	-Mobile BIA Program	<b>\$318,605</b>
	-Priority Area Program	<b>\$120,075</b>
	-Transitional Employment Program	<b>\$25,000</b>
	-Public Plazas Micro-cleaning Pilot	<b>\$90,000</b>
Street Youth Job Action	-Micro-cleaning (Downtown Peninsula)	<b>\$73,100</b>
Kettle	-Micro-cleaning (Commercial Drive)	<b>\$48,800</b>
The Bidders' Project	-Various initiatives involving bidders	<b>\$55,000</b>
Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative	-Vancouver Rat Project support	<b>\$17,500</b>
<b>Grant Program Total</b>		<b>\$1,840,000</b>

Highlights of the various programs covered under the 2020 Street Cleaning Grant Program are provided below.

*Micro-cleaning Program (\$775,140)*

United We Can (\$398,600) – The 2020 grant will allow UWC to continue their current micro-cleaning program in the DTES, Chinatown and areas surrounding their depot site.

Coast Foundation (\$127,320) – Focused in the DTES, generally between Gore and Clark, into communities where litter and drug paraphernalia are also a concern.

Mission Possible (\$127,320) – Covers an area stretching along Kingsway from Victoria to Broadway and extending west along Broadway to Granville. The program reaches into nearby residential areas, close to schools and parks.

Street Youth Job Action (\$73,100) – Focused in lanes and some residential areas in the Downtown and nearby Granville lanes.

Kettle (\$48,800) – Supplements their existing Commercial Drive BIA cleaning program by extending into areas just beyond the BIA boundaries, such as north of Venables and east/west of Broadway around the Commercial Drive transit station.

*BIA Micro-Cleaning Program (\$637,210)*

Launched in May 2016 with the goal of enhancing existing BIA cleaning efforts, this program involves two non-profit organizations, Coast and Mission Possible, providing micro-cleaning services to each of the 22 BIA's. Feedback from both BIA's and the non-profits involved continue to be positive, highlighting the value of this work.

In July 2019, Council approved the program's expansion, with each BIA receiving four (up from three) cleaning shifts per month. The 2020 expansion continues the service for the full year, representing 100 additional hours of cleaning for each BIA and bringing the total to 800 hours of cleaning per BIA annually. A grant allocation of \$318,605 to Coast and \$318,605 to Mission Possible for the mobile BIA program is proposed for 2020.

#### *Priority Areas Program (\$240,150)*

Public demand for cleaning across the City can vary widely over time and problematic litter items, such as cigarette butts and needles, are a growing concern. The Priority Areas Program was initiated in August 2019 to provide cleaning in areas of the City outside of the core where there have been on-going concerns and complaints. This program also provides the ability to shift resources to areas of temporary need based on feedback from residents, businesses, or other stakeholders. This program provided about 2900 hours of additional micro-cleaning over 288 blocks, including additional sections of Kingsway, Northeast False Creek, Olympic Village, Terminal Ave, Broadway, Granville, Oak, Cambie, Main, Fraser, and Clark/Knight S, as well as micro-cleaning of the areas surrounding the TMH sites.

As an added-value to the services focused on TMH facilities, both Coast and Mission Possible partnered with TMH operators to invite interested TMH residents to join their micro-cleaning teams. This partnership is intended to support residents with fostering a stronger connection with their community, as well as providing an opportunity to receive additional life training supports and transitional employment. Between August and December 2019, the two organizations held a total of 13 information sessions at 9 TMH sites, with 61 TMH residences in attendance. Ten individuals participated in the micro-cleaning programs, and worked a total of 384 hours.

Allocations of \$120,075 to Coast and \$120,075 to Mission Possible to continue the Priority Areas Program are proposed for 2020.

#### *Public Plazas Micro-Cleaning Pilot (\$90,000)*

The Public Plazas Micro-Cleaning Pilot was launched in August 2019 to meet the need to maintain new public spaces in the City so that they remain as clean, safe and inviting gathering places. Plazas in street right-of-way, including 800 Robson, as well as Bute/Robson, Main/14<sup>th</sup>, Alley Oop and other such public spaces, are well-used and require dedicated micro-cleaning, including collection of litter and needles, light sweeping, wiping tables and chairs, and organizing furniture. Plaza micro-cleaning needs change frequently based on community activities, time of year and weather; as such a flexible approach to scheduling, number of sites and services is required. The pilot resulted in a total of approximately 4,800 hours of micro-cleaning in 8 plazas between August and December 2019.

Given the earlier start in the calendar year for micro-cleaning in 2020, an allocation to Mission Possible of up to \$90,000 to continue the Plaza Micro-Cleaning Pilot is proposed for 2020.

#### *The Bidders' Project (\$55,000)*

The Bidders' Project is dedicated to improving economic opportunities for bidders and reducing the stigma they face as informal recyclable collectors. Bidders positively contribute to our environment and align with the City's Zero Waste goals by diverting materials from landfill.

The 2019 grant program supported the Binner's Project with expansion and development of various initiatives involving the binning community, including outreach through regular workshops and meetings, waste sorting at special events, facilitating refundables collection from residents and businesses, and supporting the Coffee Cup Revolution.

An allocation of \$55,000 to the Binner's Project for 2020 to continue supporting its initiatives, including the growth of successful events such as the Coffee Cup Revolution, is proposed.

#### *Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (\$17,500)*

The 2020 funding allocation of \$17,500 will support the third and final year of the project, and will result in the development of an evidence-based strategy for a City-wide approach to track, address, and prevent rat infestation, as well as an implementation plan. The strategy aims to put the City in a position to better understand rat infestations and support the development of future policies and programs.

#### *Transitional Employment Pilot (\$25,000)*

An allocation of \$25,000 to Mission Possible is proposed to support a pilot transitional employment program. The funds would be used to support further transition of Mission Possible associates to gainful employment potentially in the City or other organizations. The pilot program will allow for Mission Possible associates to have a temporary entry-level work term in Vancouver Sanitation Operations while still receiving support and being actively managed by Mission Possible. This pilot program would allow the individual(s) to further develop their employment skills, improving their ability to compete for a City or other market employment position in the future. The CUPE 1004 Union has been consulted and supports this program.

Appendix A provides background information on each of the seven organizations recommended for the grant awards outlined in this report.

### ***Implications/Related Issues/Risk***

#### ***Financial***

Finance has reviewed and confirmed that funding is available from the approved 2020 Annual Public Works Operating Budget. The grant funding would be as follows:

- \$1,750,000 from the additional micro-cleaning grants funding, and
- \$90,000 from Stewardship of new and existing plazas/public spaces funds

#### ***Human Resources/Labour Relations***

There are no personnel implications. The incremental services under the grant program supplement work performed by City crews and the micro-cleaning services funded through the program do not constitute work that has historically been performed by City staff. The CUPE 1004 Union has been consulted and does not object to this program.

#### ***Environmental***

The micro-cleaning services provided by these non-profit agencies significantly reduce street litter in areas of the greatest need. Collection of this litter reduces the amount of litter, including plastics, from reaching the surrounding waterbodies.

#### ***Legal***

There are no legal implications.

**CONCLUSION**

Street cleaning grants to the seven non-profit agencies listed in this report will continue to benefit marginalized residents by providing job and life skills training and benefit the City by improving the cleanliness of the public realm, and in developing socially inclusive, waste diversion initiatives, and strategies to monitor and mitigate rat populations.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Background Information on Recommended Street Cleaning Grant Recipients:**

### Save Our Living Environment – United We Can (UWC)

Save Our Living Environment is a non-profit urban environmental group active in the DTES. The Society sponsors several projects, including the United We Can (UWC) Bottle Depot. A primary objective of the Society is to create self-sustaining enterprises that focus on caring for the urban environment, while also creating income and job training for people of the inner city. The program employs residents from the local community with barriers to traditional employment, giving them valuable job-training, enhanced self-esteem and improved life skills.

UWC has utilized City grant funding over the past 20 years to provide job training and employment to individuals by performing micro-cleaning of streets and lanes in the DTES. This funding has also allowed UWC to leverage additional funding through Business Improvement Associations (BIA's) and through special events.

UWC has approximately 55 stable employees with a range of assorted barriers that clean lanes and sidewalks. As a result of this opportunity, some of the UWC staff no longer require income assistance. UWC's total pool of active work participants is sustained at 150 people, many of whom participate in the lane cleaning program. UWC's cleaning activities cover approximately 120 blocks and several parks in the DTES and surrounding areas.

### Coast Mental Health Foundation – Employment Services Program (Coast)

Coast Mental Health is an accredited non-profit society that was created in 1972 in response to a growing need in the community for services to assist people recovering from a serious mental illness. Coast operates in the Lower Mainland and provides approximately 4000 people with supportive housing coupled with a drop in resource centre, a clubhouse, homeless outreach, clinical supports, leisure services, vocational skills training and employment programs.

Coast has operated employment services for people with a mental illness for 30 years with funding support from Government of B.C, Coastal Health and City of Vancouver. The employment program provides an opportunity for people with a mental illness, along a continuum of recovery, to build skills and self-esteem through pre-vocational skills training, transitional employment, basic education and placement in competitive employment. The Clubhouse operates Coast Street Cleaning Team, a low barrier street cleaning service. Coast's employment service has long standing partnerships with 20 Business Improvement Associations and the City to provide micro-cleaning services.

The Coast's lower barrier clean team employs 60 clients with a mental illness and addictions. Crews work casual and part-time and gain valuable essential skills for the work place, increased self-esteem and some have successfully transitioned to competitive employment. All of the micro-cleaners are residents of the area and take great pride in work they do by contributing to the beautification of their neighborhood. They are the eyes on the street for reporting refuse dumping in laneways.

Coast provides micro-cleaning services in an area covering approximately 50 blocks in the DTES. Coast also operates a mobile street cleaning service to clean sidewalks and laneways in each BIA on a rotational basis, as well as in other priority areas.



### Mission Possible Compassionate Ministries Society – MP Maintenance

Mission Possible (MP) is a community economic development organization that transforms lives by helping those challenged by homelessness and poverty achieve a renewed sense of dignity and purpose through meaningful work. MP uses the motivation and desire for meaningful work as a catalyst for total life transformation. MP's 4 stage Employment Readiness Program assists those with employment barriers reach their full potential.

Since 2007 Mission Possible has been looking beyond simple provision of resources toward comprehensive community economic development strategy that creates a pathway to sustainable livelihoods. This pathway includes soft-skill training, employment coaching, and paid jobs that lead to lasting change for downtown eastside residents. In the last year alone MP has provided over 20,000 training hours and transitional employment opportunities to over 85 local residents.

The City grant supports participants working in MP's largest social enterprises, MP Maintenance, a full service exterior property cleaning company. MP performs micro-cleaning along the Kingsway and Broadway corridor, plaza and priority service area cleaning, and participates in the BIA Micro-cleaning services.

### Family Services of Greater Vancouver – Street Youth Job Action (SYJA)

SYJA is a social enterprise committed to improving the lives of homeless or at risk youth, age 24 and under. They offer a range of services including prevention, counselling, pre-employment job training and employment opportunities. They take a unique approach with reaching out to youth, such as providing locker facilities and pet kennels in order to allow individuals to utilize their services.

Services provided by SYJA include temporary, casual or part-time employment to homeless or at risk youths per year on a work today, paid today basis. The program has proven to be successful in breaking down the barriers to employment and beginning the process of helping youth to acquire the confidence and skills they will need to become employable and bridge them back into the community. Long term success can be seen in staff members who were once themselves youths in the SYJA program and have now become peer counsellors within Directions Youth Services.

SYJA provides life skills and job training to youth which includes; establishing healthy boundaries, assertiveness in the work place, employee rights and responsibilities, Health and Safety, being work ready, Naloxone – OD response training, and recognising and responding to signs of heat stroke. Information sessions offered to youth increase the likelihood of successful linkages to program and resources and have involved; Gathering Place Learning Centre, Mission Possible, YMCA Skills Link, YMCA Beat program, YMCA Strive Program, Quest Food exchange, Open Door Group, Embers Employment Services, Kaleidoscope Program and Zero Ceiling.

SYJA has an established community enhancement program (micro-cleaning initiatives, needle sweeps, and graffiti removal) for its youth through partnerships with BIA's, Waste Management of Canada, and Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (VCHA). SYJA provides micro-cleaning in an area covering approximately 150 blocks of streets and sidewalks in the downtown peninsula.

### The Kettle Friendship Society – SEED Employment Program

The Kettle Friendship Society is a Vancouver-based non-profit organization whose mission is to enhance the quality of life for individuals living with mental illness. Kettle achieves this in a number of ways including provision of crisis support, advocacy, supported housing, ID bank, outreach services, employment and support services, a health clinic, drop-in lunch program, as well as recreational/social activities.

The SEED (Skills, Esteem & Employment Development) employment program offers individuals an opportunity to build vocational skills, gain financial independence as well as develop the confidence and stamina necessary to make the transition from unemployment to satisfying work opportunities. SEED creates a supportive work environment where positions are permanent and schedules are tailored to help individuals reach their individual employment goals while offering the flexibility needed to maintain employment while facing complex health barriers. SEED employees gain a stronger sense of inclusion and community by working alongside Kettle staff at each work site in a variety of positions including cooking in housing buildings, janitorial or maintenance work, providing goods and services to Kettle members in the Drop-In Centre, facilitating Arts and Music groups, as well as, street cleaning in the community. The support offered by Kettle's SEED Support Worker through daily job coaching and monthly team meetings helps individuals with barriers flourish in their positions.

The SEED Program is also part of a creative partnership with the Commercial Drive BIA. The SEED Clean Team has worked closely with the Commercial Drive BIA to conduct street cleaning services five days a week, during special events such as Italian Days, and has employed 89 people since 2003. They also have regularly been hired by organizers of the annual Parade of Lost Souls to ensure public spaces are maintained following the event. The program gives participants an opportunity to learn new skills and to interact with the community while increasing their self-worth and benefiting the community as well as breaking down stigmatizing beliefs about mental illness.

Kettle's service area is approximately 43 blocks around Commercial Drive from Adanac to 13th Ave. as well as Broadway Ave (around the skytrain station) to Clark Drive, and a 'horseshoe' area: Venables (Clark to Commercial); Commercial (Venables to Hastings); Hastings (Commercial to Clark). The grant supplements Kettle's regular cleaning program and allows for an extended area covering 15 blocks outside the BIA boundaries.

### Tides Canada Initiatives Society – The Bidders' Project

Bidders' Project builds urban resilience, social inclusivity, and community connections for bidders, also known as informal waste-pickers, through community-driven initiatives. At its core, the Bidders' Project aims to foster face-to-face interactions between bidders, residents, and the community at large. A group of core staff and bidders work closely on implementing pilot programs at the local level, while the overall mission of the project is to build a stronger social presence and voice for one of the most marginalized communities in Vancouver.

Founded in 2014 by Ken Lyotier, a bidder himself, who founded the bidder-run bottle depot United We Can, Bidders' Project brings together bidders to achieve: 1) greater recognition of bidders function in society; and, 2) new informal economic opportunities across the city. Bidders' Project became a project on Tides Canada Initiatives' shared platform in the spring of 2015. Joining Tides Canada allows the Bidders' Project a base for growth as well as high quality administrative support for governance, human resources, financial and grant

management. Tides Canada is a registered Canadian charity dedicated to providing uncommon solutions for the common good by leading and supporting actions that foster a healthy environment and just Canadian society.

The past five years have seen rapid growth for the Bidders' Project. Volunteers, media coverage, and bidder engagement have taken off and the appetite for these programs has exceeded expectations, creating ongoing challenges with finding resources to respond to demand, and delivering results in a timely manner. The City grant will support Bidders' Project with implementing pilot programs and initiatives aimed at developing increased economic inclusion for bidders and fostering their financial independence. All programs are developed by bidders, working together with staff involved in Bidders' Project.

#### Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative - The Vancouver Rat Project

The Vancouver Rat Project, an initiative of the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC), has been studying urban rats and disease spread in their populations in Vancouver for a number of years and the City has supported aspects of their field work. According to the project team, urban rats are the source of numerous zoonotic pathogens (harmful microbes that can be transmitted from animals to people) responsible for significant human illness in cities globally. Some of these microbes can also be transmitted among rats and from rats to people by fleas (e.g., the etiologic agent of the plague), and even through direct and indirect contact with the rats or their bodily secretions including saliva, urine, and feces. Despite anecdotal evidence that rats are thriving in Canadian cities, there is little data in our country on rats, their pathogens, their distribution, and their causes. The VanRAP project aims to bridge this gap by developing evidence-based options for municipal-scale rat monitoring and management strategies for the City of Vancouver.

The project team is comprised of leading experts and includes Michael Lee – PhD candidate at UBC, Dr. Chelsea Himsworth - veterinary pathologist and founder of VRP, Dr. Craig Stephen – Executive Director of CWHC, Dr. Bobby Corrigan – President of RMC Pest Management Consulting, and Kevin Brown – Information Services Manager of CWHC.

Grant funding will support the work undertaken by Michael Lee, including direct costs for project research and development activities. All other project activities will be provided through in-kind contributions by remaining team members and are estimated to be valued at \$240,000 over the course of the 3-year project (no cost to the City).

\* \* \* \* \*