



NEWS RELEASE

City of Abbotsford receives more than \$8M in provincial funds for COVID recovery

ABBOTSFORD November 5, 2020: The City of Abbotsford has received an \$8,338,000 grant from the Provincial government under the COVID-19 Safe Restart Grants for Local Governments program, announced Mayor Henry Braun today.

The funding is part of the \$540 million of joint federal/provincial spending announced by the Province in September. The grant was provided to the City to assist with increased operating costs and lower revenue due to COVID-19.

Under the program, the City is able to utilize the funds to support a variety of cost impacts including:

- addressing revenues shortfalls;
- facility reopening and operating costs;
- emergency planning and response costs;
- bylaw enforcement and protective services like fire protection and police;
- computer and other electronic technology costs (to improve interconnectivity and virtual communications);
- services for vulnerable persons (e.g. persons living with disabilities, mental illness or addictions, persons experiencing homelessness or other vulnerabilities

More information on the COVID-19 Safe Restart Grants for Local Governments program can be found on the Province of BC's website: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/bc-restart-plan>

Quotes:

"The City of Abbotsford is extremely grateful to the Province for this much needed funding that will support our community recovery efforts. I'd personally like to thank the Premier and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing for this grant and for their ongoing efforts to ensure that communities across the province receive the supports they need to continue building a resilient, secure future for our province. Our partnership with the provincial government is a key part of ensuring that we all get through the COVID-19 crisis and continue to make life better for everyone in our province."

*Mayor Henry Braun
City of Abbotsford*

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