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**MEMORANDUM**

**RDCPTF-C 7-2021**

**Subject: Development Charges Grant Expenditures under 2017 Regional Development Charges By-law**

**Date: July 29, 2021**

**To: Regional Development Charge Policy Task Force**

**From: Rob Fleming, Senior Tax & Revenue Analyst**

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The intent of this memo is to provide the task force with context regarding Regional development charge (DC) grants that are currently contained within the 2017 DC By-law. Included as Appendix 1 to this memo is a summary of DC grants provided each full year since the By-law's inception in 2017 forecasted out to year-end 2021. The 2018 to 2020 values represent actuals for that year while 2021 represents a forecast to year-end based on current trends.

As can be noted in the Appendix, DC grants represents a significant component of the annual DC collections and the Region's annual general tax levy. The DC Act specifies that DC collection deficits as a result of DC grants cannot be made up from future DC collections therefore the Region funds the DC grants from the annual tax levy in order to keep the DC reserves whole. As such, a percentage calculation has also been provided in the Appendix which compares the annual grants for the year to that year's annual general tax levy amount. Year 2018 represents the most significant grant year for the Region which resulted in \$13M in DC grant awards based on the provisions of the 2017 DC By-law. This \$13M represented nearly 30% of total DC collections and nearly 4% of the Region's general tax levy for the year.

On July 22, 2021, Region staff held a workshop with Regional Council to provide an overview of the Regional Incentive Review Team's recommendations on future incentive programs which included programs related to DCs. The Team's recommendations were based on the Council approved Incentive Pillars of: brownfield redevelopment, employment in key sectors, affordable housing and public realm. As can be noted in the Appendix, many of the Region current discretionary DC grant programs are not directly tied to the Council approved Incentive Pillars which is the primary reason for Incentive Review recommending that many of the current

discretionary grants not continue beyond the current DC By-law. In 2018, for example, 73% of the \$13M in awarded grants did not relate to an approved incentive pillar. The focus will be to create discretionary DC grant programs which are aligned with the previously established incentive pillars and that are outside of a DC By-law in separate policies in order to ensure that these future programs can be adaptable, flexible and more successful in advancing Council objectives.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

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Rob Fleming, MBA  
Senior Tax & Revenue Analyst

**Appendix 1** - Regional Development Charge Grant Awarded under 2017 RDC By-law