Local Stories: Procurement for Community Well Being

Contributor: Allison McCarrick, CPHR
Chief Administrative Officer District of Port Hardy

Port Hardy: Test Driving Our Community Values

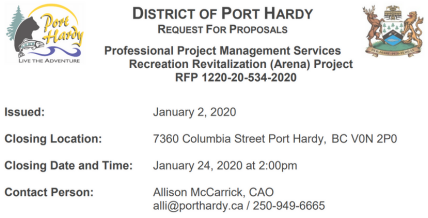
COASTAL COMMUNITIES
Social Procurement
INITIATIVE

"At the beginning, we thought social procurement was about 'what are they going to gift us?'- that they would leave us a clock or something, but it isn't about that. It is about being inclusive, about the environment, and about the community, workforce and local economy'."

-Alison McCarrick

Location: Port Hardy

Population: 4,100



DISTRICT OF PORT HARDY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Professional Project Management Services
Recreation Revitalization (Arena) Project
RFP 1220-20-534-2020

Issued:	January 2, 2020
Closing Location:	7360 Columbia Street Port Hardy, BC V0N 2P0
Closing Date and Time:	January 24, 2020 at 2:00pm
Contact Person:	Allison McCarrick, CAO alli@porthardy.ca / 250-949-6665

Port Hardy is a small community at the tip of Vancouver Island. The local government is both a provider of services to the community as well as a supporter of local economy and businesses. Wherever possible, the District is looking at how to be inclusive of local businesses and to ask outside suppliers- 'what can you bring to our local community that adds something extra to the people that will be using the services that we pay you to provide?'

Recreation Revitalization Project

Port Hardy's recreation centre is the beating heart of the community- providing health and wellness services and a place for people to gather. It is beginning to show its age. Recently, the District replaced the chiller for the arena. In doing the work, the District could see other work required on the refrigeration system, new roof and inside the arena.

These renovations also provided an opportunity to meet emerging community and environmental needs:

- the accessibility ramp has tight corners that are difficult for scooters to navigate. Residents using scooters have been accessing the arena through a back door, an access point that impacts dignity and sense of welcome.
- In updating heating and cooling systems, heat reclaim can help the complex become more energy efficient.

BUY SOCIAL™ VICA Vancouver Island Construction Association PRESENTATIONS PLUS SCALE

Port Hardy Recreation Centre

Port Hardy is a member of Coastal Communities Social Procurement Initiative and had access to training and templates. The District worked from the sample template, incorporated definitions and used a 'descriptive' process so that proponents could describe how they wanted to achieve community benefits including any anticipated associated costs.

The Project Management RFP is aiming to integrate local employment, local supply chain management and local living outcomes right at the front end of the larger project. One of the goals is that project managers look for suppliers that are also embodying social values and community benefit.

As of January 24, Port Hardy received 7 bids for the project. The District was very pleased with the number of responses and the content. With respect to social value the proponents varied their responses, some of the inclusions were; the company's environmental conscience, the employment of barrier individuals, apprenticeships offered, involvement and support both financial and volunteerism with community non-profit groups, where possible employment of the local labour force, and unique methods of tracking energy savings upon completion of the project.

RFP: Professional Project Management Services Recreation Revitalization (Arena) Project

Proposal Contents include this statement:

Social and Community Values; the Proponent has the opportunity to describe any social and community benefits it is prepared to supply as part of the Contract. Unless otherwise stated, it is understood that there are no extra costs for these services, however if there are any additional costs pertaining hereto, the summary and explanation of those costs should be shown separately in the proposed budget table (Schedule A). Social and Community Value items could include:

- The employment of barriered individuals;
- Unique or proprietary methods of work;
- Involvement of Social Enterprises in any portion of the work;
- Your company's supply chain practices which could be inclusive of local sourcing for labour and / or materials;
- Your company's commitments to a diverse supply chain;
- Your company's ability to monitor and measure social and community value commitments; and,
- Other.

Social Value Criteria = 10 points out of 110

Outcomes and Lessons Learned

For this initial step, Port Hardy was piloting how to integrate social value into an RFP and learn the different ways that contractors and consultants can provide social value. The key was getting it out, making sure it wasn't too onerous, and allowing proponents an opportunity to describe what they do already and could do moving forward.

"We are not anticipating too much response this time around- either people will understand social community value and will include it, or they won't.. We may have to do a better job explaining the District's position on social value in the future, our process and expectations. We are practicing for our upcoming $20M infrastructure pool project!"

One of the key outcomes is increased engagement with local First Nations. The First Nations use the recreation services so much, and recreation facilities are key to keeping people in community and providing a location for ongoing relationship and engagement. The District has been engaging local First Nations on how they want to be involved in the project and let them know about employment opportunities related to the project.

Another key outcome was realizing how much they are already connecting procurement to community benefit. A local janitorial contractor employs people facing barriers to employment such as newcomers to Canada and youth. Another local provider employs vulnerable youth and is a key supporter of community events, service clubs and non profits. One of the District's biggest lessons from CCSPI is to let the council know what they are already doing. This year, the District is changing their SOFI reporting to list local service providers greater than $5K that council is aware of the procurement benefit back into community, especially that which supports local employment.

Advice to Other Governments

"If you are feeling nervous, you just need to go for it. Be general the first time, don't make an extra 'ask' or get too focused or detailed- this may get you more grief. See what you get back, see how it fits, and how it feels for your community."

- Allison McCarrick

Social Procurement Policy

Port Hardy updated their procurement policy to include social procurement. **Section 11 states:**

The District considers the environmental, social and economic sustainability value of the goods and services being purchased, with the intent to shift spending away from goods and services that negatively impact the environment and society towards products and services that are more environmentally sound, socially beneficial and economically sustainable.

Recognizing its role as a major purchaser of goods and services, the District will seek opportunities to encourage environmental and socially preferable products where possible. The District will practice economic sustainability by evaluating life cycle costs when evaluating projects.

It is the District's practice to include sustainability guidelines as value added evaluation criteria in procurement documents where practical. The evaluation criteria used will be tailored to the specific competition; however, more points may be awarded for activities that have a greater impact on social, environmental and economic sustainability.

The value-added evaluation criteria used will be tailored to the specific competition; and will be clearly stated in the procurement documents.

Social, environmental and economic sustainability achieved through District purchasing practices will be reported annually in the Annual Report.