

RDN Board Approves Grants in Support of Local Organizations

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Board approved community grants for 20 organizations across the region at the July 8, 2025, board meeting. The value of the community grants awarded for the spring 2025 intake totals \$92,643 and will be used for a variety of community-focused projects. Community grants help registered non-profit organizations deliver social programs and services that serve a local community or provide a regional benefit.

Spring 2025 Community Grant Recipients

- Arrowsmith Health Care Foundation: To create a covered outdoor event space to invite various community groups and programs to engage with those who are no longer able to venture out into the greater community \$5,000
- Arrowsmith Naturalists: To attend various farmers markets across Oceanside (particularly in Errington) to provide information on the importance of pollinators and their decline in the area, as well as to offer potted plants and educational materials \$500
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Vancouver Island: To provide supplies for the In School/Teen in School Mentoring Program such as art, food, cooking, sports supplies, and to purchase 4 new chairs for the boardroom for meetings \$3,200
- Cedar Community Hall Association: To purchase and install additional heat pumps to support the hall during extreme weather conditions, when the hall hosts large groups \$10,000
- Coastal Invasive Species Committee Society: To support the delivery of the Central Island Invasive Species Partnership's Programs in the Regional District of Nanaimo including the Education and Awareness Program and the Field Program \$3,800
- Errington Preschool Parents Society: To purchase art supplies and outdoor play equipment \$4,000
- Extension and District Recreation Commission: To replace chairs in the community hall \$3,000
- Gabriola Songs Society DBA Gabriola Theatre Centre: To purchase a Square Terminal, register and drape kits \$2,752
- Jananco Hobby Workshop Association: To purchase batting for quilt donations, materials for an adjustable woodworking table and upgrade lapidary equipment \$2,850
- Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Society: To enhance programming at the 2026 Brant Wildlife Festival aimed at youth and family participation and engagement \$5,000
- Nanaimo Art Gallery: To support the summer public engagement and outreach programming to expand into the Regional District of Nanaimo, specifically tied to an exhibition, "League Nanaimo", by Germaine Koh \$6,000

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- Nanaimo Community Kitchens Society: To expand the Cooking Out of the Box program to offer more free workshops that build food skills, promote healthy eating, and foster community connection \$4,500
- Nanaimo Foodshare: To purchase, install and maintain mobility mats to improve accessibility along the main access routes at Park Avenue Farm \$3,474
- Oceanside Building Learning Together Society: To support the WOW Bus Program in delivering the Strong Start Program for Qualicum School District 69 by upgrading play equipment and other supplies \$3,300
- Oceanside Minor Softball Association: To host the 2025 U15B Provincial Championship in Nanaimo and purchase equipment for the new Umpire training program \$10,000
- Pacific Coast Stage Company: To purchase a portable sound system (sound system, mixer board and microphones) to be used at the outdoor venue Shelby Station to increase visibility for local artists and provide engaging cultural experiences for the public \$5,553
- PQB Fruit Tree Project: To purchase a used but reliable pickup truck to haul garden tools, ladders, and the farmers market supplies \$4,000
- Take a Hike Youth Mental Health Foundation: To support the Take a Hike Nanaimo Program's land-based learning in 2025-2026, providing up to 24 youth with barrier free access to weekly outdoor trips and multi-day wilderness expeditions \$8,000
- The HOPE Centre (Verstraete Evangelistic Association): To replace outdated fluorescent lighting with LED lighting \$4,714
- Women of Influence Nanaimo/Footprints Infertility & Pregnancy Loss Support Society: Funding to assist with the third annual Women of Influence Nanaimo (WIN) Awards Gala to cover venue fees, audio and visual equipment, and logistical requirements \$3,000

Total Awarded: \$92,643

In addition, the following organization was awarded a grant through the Oceanside Recreation Services grant program:

Oceanside Recreation Services Youth Grant

- Whalers Football Support Society: Purchase of team equipment - helmets, automated external defibrillator and jersey replacement - \$1,230

The next RDN grant application deadlines are:


- Oceanside Community Safety Grants: August 29, 2025
- Electoral Area A Recreation and Culture Grants: September 26, 2025
- Oceanside Recreation Services Grants: September 5, 2024
- Community Grants: April 24, 2026


For grant application forms and general grant information, visit rdn.bc.ca/grants.

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