

# **Kawartha Lakes Economic Recovery Taskforce**

## **Draft**

### **Guiding Principles:**

Local economic development is a process by which public, business and non-governmental sector partners work collectively to create better conditions for economic growth and employment generation. Local economic development is thus about communities continually improving their investment climate and business enabling environment to enhance their competitiveness, retain jobs and improve incomes (World Bank & FCM)

The municipality is a catalyst for, and a facilitator of, local economic development. In the current economic climate, the actions of the municipality in supporting the recovery of local businesses and resilience of the local economy are crucial.

As the Taskforce works towards the municipal goal of reviving A Vibrant and Growing Economy, the Kawartha Lakes Strategic Plan (Strategic Plan) established four guiding principles to be the foundation for the work;

Fiscally responsible, open and transparent, partner and collaborate, service excellence

### **Problem statement:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented challenges to the economy. In March, 2020, the Canadian economy lost one million jobs. This was the largest decline in history with the majority of jobs concentrated in accommodations, food service, retail trade and cultural industries and is only considered to be the beginning.

Locally, the Kawartha Lakes economy has been challenged with essential workplace lists and physical distancing impacting the ability for local businesses to operate. A resilient community, many local businesses have made tremendous efforts to reorient and adapt their business processes. However, this is not enough. There is a need for a municipal response to partner with provincial and federal initiatives to strategically work towards economic recovery.

### **Mission:**

The mission of this Taskforce is to equip the municipality to stimulate local economic recovery.

Immediate priorities of the Taskforce are to focus on strategic initiatives in three areas:

- a) Critical Infrastructure Investments

- b) Planning and Development Stimulus
- c) Business Recovery and Support

### **Activities:**

The activities of the Taskforce are focused on the strategic initiatives in three areas:

- a) Critical infrastructure investments:
  - Identification of, and refocusing to, critical infrastructure projects that will stimulate further economic recovery including;
    - Active Municipal Construction Projects
    - Potential Upcoming Construction work
    - Development Driven Construction
- b) Planning and Development stimulus:
  - Identification of shovel ready planning and development projects
  - Retooling and focusing of the planning, development and building permit processes and resources to;
    - fast track approvals to support summer and fall construction projects
    - encourage new development to simulate economic growth
- c) Business Recovery and Support
  - Survey of the local business community to identify strategic areas for support and stimulus
  - Provide resources, information and direct support to help small businesses access funding from all levels of government
  - Re-focus municipal programs to support the recovery of local businesses and sectors

### **Composition:**

The Taskforce will comprise of xx members and be lead by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Membership will include Councillors and business representatives with a direct knowledge of the impact of COVID-19 on local business and the economy. Composition may include Local business organizations (Chambers, BIA, KLCFDC), industry associations, and community members representing a broad range of industry sectors. Sectors to be considered for the Taskforce include; agri-business, construction, culture, manufacturing, retail, services, and tourism.

The Taskforce will be supported by a team of Resource Staff from the municipality led by Development Services and may also include the Health Unit, regional Provincial Staff or others as deemed necessary by the Taskforce.