



## **Council Report**

**Report Number ED2020-028**

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**Meeting Date:**        **December 15, 2020**

**Title:**                Kawartha Lakes Innovation Cluster Pilot Project Extension

**Description:**        Extension of the Kawartha Lakes Innovation Cluster Pilot project to December 31, 2021

**Author and Title:**   Rebecca Mustard, Manager of Economic Development

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### **Recommendation(s):**

**That** Report ED2020-028, **Kawartha Lakes Innovation Cluster Pilot Project Extension**, be received; and

**That** the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute a revised agreement with the Innovation Cluster - Peterborough Kawartha as outlined in Appendix A to Report ED2020-028.

**Department Head:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Financial/Legal/HR/Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chief Administrative Officer:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Background:**

In Ontario, municipalities are able to provide for the establishment of a counselling service to small businesses operating or proposed to operate in the municipality under the Ontario Municipal Act 2006, c.32 Schedule A, s.50.

The Kawartha Lakes Innovation Cluster Pilot Project was proposed to extend municipal economic development programming to encourage business and job growth within the municipality in high growth businesses.

At the Council Meeting of September 10, 2019, Council adopted the following resolution:

CW2019-173

**That** Report ED2019-020, **Kawartha Lakes Innovation Cluster Pilot Project Proposal**, be received; and

**That** the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute any documents and agreements required to enter into an agreement with the Innovation Cluster- Peterborough Kawartha to deliver the Kawartha Lakes Innovation Cluster Pilot until December 31, 2020.

Carried

The Kawartha Lakes Innovation Cluster Pilot Project launched officially at 180 Kent Street on February 11, 2020. In March, 2020, when all municipal buildings were closed to the public due to the pandemic, the Pilot Project moved to a virtual program.

On November 4, 2020, as a requirement of the original Pilot Project Business Counselling Services Agreement, Council received a joint presentation from City Staff and the Innovation Cluster- Peterborough and the Kawartha's reporting on the outcomes of the Kawartha Lakes Innovation Cluster Pilot Project.

At the Council Meeting of November 17, 2020, Council adopted the following resolution:

**CW2020-164**

**That** Report ED2020-23, **Economic Recovery Task Force Recommendations**, be received;

**That** permit fees for park use, patios and events in 2021 be waived, with forecasted reduced revenue identified in the 2021 budget;

**That** the downtown Fenelon Falls reconstruction project be included as a decision unit in the 2021 capital budget;

**That** an increase in garbage cans and frequency of waste pick up in our downtowns and major parks be costed and included as a decision unit in the 2021 budget;

**That** portable washrooms and associated directional signage in our downtowns and parks be costed and included as a decision unit in the 2021 budget;

**That** accelerated investment in our boat launches and trails for improved access and enjoyment be costed and included as a decision unit in the 2021 budget;

**That** Council supports the work of EORN and EOWC for the Eastern Ontario “1 GIG” proposal for increased broadband capacity;

**That** Council directs staff to develop a cultural sector recovery grant program for 2021, which could be applied to operating costs for our arts and culture community, and report back to council on the scope of the program by end of Q1 2021;

**That** Council approves a modified extension to the Kawartha Lakes Innovation Cluster Pilot program until December 31, 2021, through in-kind support to provide specific support for high growth businesses; and

**That** Council endorses the Economic Recovery Task Force Action Plan as provided in Appendix A to this report.

Carried

This report addresses that direction.

## **Rationale:**

The Kawartha Lakes Innovation Cluster Pilot Project extension Business Counselling Services Agreement proposed includes a number of updates to the original agreement signed in 2019 following the learnings of the Pilot Project, of note;

- Duration of the Pilot Project extended between January 1, 2021, and December 31, 2021, which is in line with the lease agreement.
- Removal of reference to Pilot Project funding as Council approved supporting the extension in-kind through the provision of space at 180 Kent Street.

- Change in the reporting requirements from monthly to quarterly to reflect a more appropriate timeframe for activity to take place and outcomes to be observed.
- Updating language, where appropriate, to reflect the requirements for limited physical, and an increase in virtual, programming due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, in-keeping with safety precautions.
- Removal of seat on the Innovation Cluster board for a Kawartha Lakes representative as this opportunity was not exercised in 2020 and would be better considered as part of a future program should Council choose to continue the program following the end of the Pilot Project Extension term.

### **Other Alternatives Considered:**

The Kawartha Lakes Innovation Cluster Pilot Project Extension supports the further execution of extended economic development programming specific to supporting high growth businesses. The Innovation Cluster-Peterborough and the Kawartha's brings specific experience and expertise in digital technology and intellectual property, resources typically found in Regional Innovation Centres.

Despite the pandemic, the Pilot Project was successful in supporting 12 local companies and providing training opportunities for many others. The extension of the Pilot Project will allow the work to continue for another year and give Council and Staff an opportunity to plan for the future.

### **Alignment to Strategic Priorities**

The Pilot Project Extension directly implements the 2020-2023 Kawartha Lakes Strategic Plan Goal;

A Vibrant and Growing Economy

The Goal identifies the action to create an environment to attract business to Kawartha Lakes, and specifically within that action to create an Innovation Centre to support and encourage high growth new businesses. This project furthers that direction.

### **Financial/Operation Impacts:**

The Pilot Project Extension provides for in-kind space at 180 Kent Street. This agreement extension does not include the provision of funding. A separate report is coming forward from Realty Services at this Council meeting with reference to the lease agreement.

## **Consultations:**

City Solicitor  
Innovation Cluster - Peterborough and the Kawartha's

## **Attachments:**

Appendix A – Kawartha Lakes Innovation Cluster Pilot Project Extension  
Business Services Counselling Agreement



20201215InnovationCluster\_Agreement

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**Department Head:** Chris Marshall