

## Council Report

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| <b>Report Number:</b>    | <b>ED2022-023</b>  |
| <b>Meeting Date:</b>     | March 22, 2022   |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Skills Development Fund Extension Request</b>   |
| <b>Description:</b>      | Request to extend the existing Skills Development Fund project timeline with the Province and Sir Sandford Fleming College |
| <b>Author and Title:</b> | Rebecca Mustard, Manager of Economic Development   |

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### Recommendations:

**That** Report ED2022-023, **Skills Development Fund Extension Request**, be received; and

**That** the Mayor and Clerk, following a review of agreements to the satisfaction of the City Solicitor, be authorised to execute all required documents and agreement(s) with the Province of Ontario and Sir Sandford Fleming College relating to the Skills Development Fund Project extension for the period April 1, 2022 to July 31, 2022.

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

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

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

## **Background:**

The Skills Development Fund (SDF) is a fully funded provincial program offered by the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development (MLTSD). The SDF supports projects that enable market-driven solutions and unlock the economic potential of skilled trade and broader workforce development initiatives to facilitate economic recovery.

In Q1, 2021, the municipality submitted a joint application to the SDF program in partnership with Sir Sandford Fleming College for a project titled Application for simulators for skills advancement training for sectors experiencing labour market shortages. The project proposed to address immediate local and provincial labour force needs by acquiring simulators, developing training modules, and training 680 incumbents, job seekers, and students in the construction, agricultural, forestry and public works sectors between March 31, 2021 and March 31, 2022.

At the Council Meeting of March 23, 2021 Council adopted the following resolution:

CR2021-170

Moved By Councillor Elmslie

Seconded By Councillor Yeo

**That** the Memorandum from Rebecca Mustard, Manager of Economic Development, regarding Skills Development Fund Application, be received; and  
**That** the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute any documents and agreements required by the approval of the Skills Development Fund Application.

**Carried**

The project was approved in Q1, 2021, since that time has been underway. This report requests Council approve signing an extension agreement with the Province and Sir Sandford Fleming College to extend the duration of the project to July 31, 2022.

## **Rationale:**

The project has been significantly delayed due to pandemic restrictions, supply chain challenges, and the procurement process. The challenge of procuring simulators delayed the development of training modules and the subsequent delivery of training for program participants (job seekers, incumbent workers, and students), as both activities use the simulators.

Despite the challenges, Fleming College has continued to move the project along as efficiently as possible and recently completed the simulator procurement. The simulators for heavy equipment have now been received at Fleming College Frost Campus. These simulators are being installed and training for staff has begun. The simulators will be available for broader training shortly which will start to fulfil the program participant training targets. All project work that was not dependent on the simulators being in place has been completed.

An extension to the project timeline is required to complete project implementation. This includes outreach and training to job seekers, incumbents and students. Without an extension, the project will conclude on March 31, 2022. At this point, little or no participant training will have taken place and training targets will not be met. Should the project extension be approved to July 31, 2022, Fleming College has forecast that the project will come very close, and potentially meet, the ambitious participant targets established at the beginning of the project.

An extension request has been submitted to the Province and received preliminary support from Ministry Staff. The approval process continues. An outcome is expected imminently and the extension agreement will need to be executed before March 31, 2022.

Should the extension request be approved, Staff will coordinate executing the agreement with the Province and the agreement between the municipality and Sir Sandford Fleming College from March 31, 2022 to July 31, 2022.

### **Other Alternatives Considered:**

An extension is required for this project to be completed and start to meet performance targets. Therefore, no alternatives have been considered.

### **Alignment to Strategic Priorities**

A project extension supports the 2022-2023 Kawartha Lakes Strategic Plan priority:

- A Vibrant and Growing Economy

This project provides upskilling to key sectors in the local economy, providing state of the art training in Lindsay. It is also an example of collaboration between the municipality and post secondary institution to further local economic opportunities.

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

The project budget is \$2,245,306 and is 100% grant funded by the Province of Ontario with a partner contribution of \$26,000 from Fleming College. The municipal costs associated with administering the project are covered through the fund. An extension will not incur additional expenses beyond the existing funding allocation.

### **Consultations:**

City Solicitor  
Senior Accountant  
Sir Sandford Fleming College

### **Attachments:**

None.

**Department Head email:** [rholy@kawarthalakes.ca](mailto:rholy@kawarthalakes.ca)

**Department Head:** Richard Holy, Director of Development Services