



Council Report

Report Number:	ED2022-040
Meeting Date:	June 21, 2022
Title:	Pathways to Prosperity Project MOU
Description:	Project Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Kawartha Lakes and Peterborough and the Kawarthas Economic Development
Author and Title:	Rebecca Mustard, Manager of Economic Development

Recommendations:

That Report ED2022-040, **Pathways to Prosperity Project MOU**, be received; and

That the Mayor and Clerk be authorised to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Kawartha Lakes and Peterborough and the Kawarthas Economic Development, attached as Appendix A to this report, and all project extensions relating to the Pathways to Prosperity project.

Department Head: _____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Background:

In September 2021, the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development (MLTD) announced a new round of Skills Development Fund (SDF) funding of \$83.3million to support projects that will enable market-driven solutions and unlock the economic potential of skilled trades and broader workforce development initiatives to facilitate economic recovery.

The City of Kawartha Lakes successfully applied as the lead partner for two projects. One is with Sir Sandford Fleming College titled Sustainable Food Systems and Urban Forestry Credentials, and another is with Trent University and Peterborough and the Kawarthas Economic Development titled Community-Campus Engagement for Rural Degree Holders in Peterborough and City of Kawartha Lakes. Both projects have commenced.

The City also partnered on a third successful project called Pathways to Prosperity. This is a regional project led by Peterborough and the Kawarthas Economic Development in collaboration with the City of Kawartha Lakes, Fleming College as a training delivery agent, Muskoka-Kawarthas Employment Services, and the Workforce Development Board.

The Pathways to Prosperity Project Memorandum of Understanding outlines the relationship between the City of Kawartha Lakes and Peterborough and the Kawarthas Economic Development, and program funds allocated to the City of Kawartha Lakes. The funding amount requires Council approval prior to execution.

This report requests approval to execute the Memorandum of Understanding.

Rationale:

The Pathways to Prosperity project will encourage job seekers to enter or re-enter the workforce to address the skills shortage in high in demand jobs in the construction, food service, agriculture and manufacturing sectors throughout the Greater Peterborough and Kawartha Lakes regions.

The Pathways to Prosperity Project is a new regional workforce development initiative that extends the work of the Kawartha Lakes AdvancEd – Job Skills Training Program (AdvancEd). The AdvancEd program concluded on May 31, 2022, with the conclusion of the Provincial Skills Advance Ontario program offering.

In 2021-2022, the AdvancEd program partnered with VCCS Employment Services and Fleming College to support workforce development in three key sectors; agriculture, construction and manufacturing. A total of 25 local businesses participated, 86 existing employees participated in 17 training courses to support upskilling and leadership development, and 24 job seekers joined the four (4) week training program delivered over 5 cohorts with wrap around supports to encourage their success in entry level positions in local businesses.

A regional approach will build on the success of the AdvancEd program and facilitate additional training opportunities for job seekers and employers, while retaining a portion of programming at the Fleming College Frost Campus in Lindsay. The program sectors will also expand by including line cook instruction to support the local food service sector.

The Pathways to Prosperity Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlines the responsibilities of the City of Kawartha Lakes and Peterborough and the Kawarthas Economic Development. The City of Kawartha Lakes Signing Authority By-law 2016-009 requires Council approval to sign the Pathways to Prosperity Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):

- 6.11 A contract or agreement that has an aggregate value greater than \$100,000.00 requires a report to Council and by-law to authorize the execution of the agreement.

Other Alternatives Considered:

The Kawartha Lakes SAO AdvancEd - Job Skills Training Program was highly successful in helping close local workforce gaps in agriculture, construction, and manufacturing sectors. This new project, Pathways to Prosperity, will continue this work. As such, no alternatives are considered.

Alignment to Strategic Priorities

The Pathways to Prosperity project supports the 2022-2023 Kawartha Lakes Strategic Plan priority:

- A Vibrant and Growing Economy

The projects address workforce challenges in the local economy and also develop strategic collaborative partnerships with key institutions in the region.

Financial/Operation Impacts:

The Pathways to Prosperity project has allocated up to \$159,700 in funding. This funding is to cover program related expenses for an Economic Development Officer and Administrative Assistant, and staff mileage. The full costs of which are covered by the funding.

Consultations:

Peterborough and the Kawarthas Economic Development
City Solicitor

Attachments:

Appendix A - Pathways to Prosperity MOU



FINAL PKED CKL
MOU_Pathways to Prc

Department Head email: rholy@kawarthalakes.ca

Department Head: Richard Holy, Director of Development Services