

SYNOPSIS

Mitacs Funding

Pathways to Resiliency Research Project

The Poverty Reduction Advisory Committee has developed a 3-year Strategic Plan which identified food insecurity, housing/homelessness and youth outreach and education as three pillars of concern to be addressed. The Strategic Plan has been referred to each of the partnering municipal units of Amherst, Oxford and Cumberland for consideration.

While developing the plan the Committee was concurrently working on some of the goals including one which addresses youth outreach and education. To that end the Committee met with representatives of Mitacs to link our municipalities to researchers who could provide the data needed to inform the work to be completed. The Committee met with Hailie Tattrie to discuss potential research options centered around barriers to youth in the community. From these discussions a proposal was submitted to the Committee for review.

The proposal from Hailie Tattrie of Mount St. Vincent University centers around gaining qualitative data from youth aged 12-19 here in Cumberland County on what barriers are faced by today's youth. It will help inform municipalities on what resources might be required to make our community more vibrant to youth, provide insight into the complex challenges between education/life skills/employment and ultimately help us build a framework that helps make our youth more resilient. Through application to Mitacs funding, 50% of the cost of the research will be covered and the balance would be the responsibility of the municipalities. The research project will take approximately 16 months to conduct and report back at a cost of \$60,000.00. With Mitacs contribution of \$30,000 the balance of \$30,000 would be split amongst the County and Towns of Amherst and Oxford.

The three CAO's are suggesting that both the Town of Amherst and the Municipality of County of Cumberland each contribute \$13,500 towards the project with the Town of Oxford contributing \$3,000.

MOTION:

That Council approve of funding in the amount of \$13,500 for the Pathways to Resiliency research project, with funding to come from the "Poverty" funding in the 2023/24 and 2024/25 Operating Budgets.