



AMHERST TOWN COUNCIL

RFD# 2023027

Date: March 27, 2023

TO: Mayor Kogon and Members of Council

SUBMITTED BY: Sharon Bristol Director, Community Living

DATE: March 27, 2023

SUBJECT: *Pathways to Resiliency Request for Funding*

ORIGIN: The Intermunicipal Poverty Reduction Advisory Committee was established to work collaboratively to reduce the effects of poverty in our communities.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY: MGA 47 (5) The council may make and carry out a contract, perform an act, do anything or provide a service for which the municipality or the council is authorized by an Act of the Legislature to spend or borrow money. 1998, c. 18, s. 47.

RECOMMENDATION: 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.

BACKGROUND: The Poverty Reduction Advisory Committee developed a 3-year Strategic Plan which identified three pillars of concern to be addressed (food insecurity, housing/homelessness and youth outreach and education). 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 PRAC 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 (attached). The Committee reviewed the proposal and approved the following motion:

Whereas the Mitacs proposal will engage youth from all over the region to obtain data that will help local government understand how our youth see their communities and what barriers prevent them from working and living here in Cumberland County and;

Whereas the Intermunicipal Poverty Reduction Advisory Committee is of the opinion that the above is useful / beneficial in achieving the goals of the draft strategic plan related to youth engagement and education, increasing the opportunities for youth engagement and would like this proposal to be considered prior to the approval of the Strategic Plan due to the timing involved in the application process and;

Whereas the total project budget is \$60,000 with 50% of this total covered by Mitacs and the 3 municipal units responsible for \$30,000 plus HST, over a 16 month period.





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I move that the funding of the Mitacs project “Pathways to Resiliency” be recommended to the three participating municipal Councils and that the municipalities collaborate, through the respective CAOs, to determine a mutually agreeable funding formula.

DISCUSSION: 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.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: Financial contribution of \$13,500.

SOCIAL JUSTICE IMPLICATIONS: Understanding the barriers faced by today's youth is the first step in laying the groundwork to make our communities more vibrant, providing opportunities to keep our youth here and able to thrive. For too many decades the brain-drain experienced by youth leaving for education/employment opportunities and not returning has been experienced. This has created an unbalanced perspective of what direction our communities can and should be moving towards.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS: None relating to approving this funding request.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Continued engagement. Opportunities to collaborate with existing youth care providers, youth, families and other stakeholders.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1 Deny the funding request
- 2 Defer to next month

ATTACHMENTS: Pathways to Resiliency presentation, cost breakdown, Hailie's research proposal





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Report prepared by:

Report and Financial approved by:

