



Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami

Memo No.
2024-M-031

Memorandum to Council

Subject: Economic Development Report

Agenda Date: February 8, 2024

Attachments:

RECOMMENDATION

For Council Information

INFORMATION

Bank Closing:

A number of interested parties to replace the leaving Scotiabank branch in town have reached out to us. We have introduced them to the owner of the building and have helped facilitate discussions with major employers in the area. We are optimistic that we will continue to have a brick and mortar financial institution in the region following Scotiabank's exit.

Tredcorp:

The Temagami Region Economic Development Corporation recently met with legal counsel to review our incorporation documents. We will be bringing these documents shortly to Mayor and Council for ratification before we proceed with legal incorporation.

Temagami Dry

Leasing agreements are being worked out through a number of meetings with interested parties. These are nearing finalization and review by independent legal counsel. It was agreed that a lawyer will volunteer to have a read through before we take the agreement to independent legal for advice.

Fednor Announcement

On February 2, Anthony Rota, Member of Parliament for Nipissing-Timiskaming, announced Government of Canada support for economic, community and business development and growth in the Municipality of Temagami. The announcement will be made on behalf of the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Indigenous Services and Minister responsible for FedNor at our new Chalet.

Chamber of Commerce

Plans are being made with the Chamber of Commerce to work together to raise business acumen in the area, starting with a series of free workshops on topics ranging from social media marketing to accounting practices.

North Bay Capital Centre Bluesfest

The Capitol Centre's annual Bluesfest event has come to an end after almost a decade due to a significant gap in financial support that renders the festival unsustainable for the Capitol Centre as a not-for-profit organization. Seeing a possible opportunity and working in conjunction with our Recreation Coordinator, we have reached out to investigate possible migration of the festival to Temagami's Canada Day celebration.

The Capital Centre has expressed positivity at this possibility and will support us should we feel this is a viable direction for the municipality.

Grants Approval

On January 26, Mayor Omara and myself attended the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Board. There are a number of potential grants from this organization I would like permission of apply for.

The most time sensitive is the Rural Economic Development program, or RED.

The deadline for Intake for this grant will be February 21, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

The grant would pay 30% of the project costs. Suggested projects include "Wayfinding signage Beautification (for example, decorative lighting, banners, murals, street furniture, public art, trees) "

The project would be as such:

- Take the current signage mapping and update the mapping and placement of the signs onto a usable mapping layer.
- Produce a system using Town staff, Council and public engagement that creates and reinforces a unique and recognizable sense of place, identity and interconnectedness of the Town and its features;
- Signs will be designed in a way that will allow the sign to be modified to change the location of the attraction or add additional attractions without replacing the entire sign;
- Graphics, colours, fonts (not necessarily font size) is to be consistent across both designs.

The project will result in:

- A wayfinding system that will improve communication of how to get to key features and amenities and improve navigability.
- Include Parking and mobile app information.
- A system that informs and directs visitors and residents towards cultural, historic, and recreational amenities as well as local businesses and services.
- The development of easy-to-read signs.
- The use of individual panels for each listing (removable in case of changes or damage).
- Durable materials for longevity to be used (sign materials and posts)

Signage will need to be completed to go along with newly instituted paid parking.

The project will have up to 10 8'X 4' waterfront signs along with up to 15 other signs to replace the current signage and add paid parking signage.

It is estimated the full cost of this signage will be up to \$20,000.00

The municipality contribution would eventually be reimbursed by collecting parking fees where we had not beforehand.

I contacted a small conservation area (Catfish Creek Conservation Authority) who utilizes an app one of these systems to get an honest appraisal of how they work in a real and rural setting. The Passport Parking App is used by Kitchener, Windsor, Hamilton, North Bay and Sault St. Marie.

The app is very easy to use and is connected to a credit card. It offers the ability for users to stop at multiple locations without having to add time to coin meters or pay and displays given the one zone. Parking sessions can be paid for on one's phone and extended time can be added remotely. The Passport Parking app also warns users when their time is running low and a top-up option is given. Users may also keep track of their parking history and receive email receipts.

This solution is very easy to use and this type of app solution is present in other northern communities such as Timmins (Hotspot App), Sudbury (Hotspot App) and Thunder Bay (Passport App).

Catfish Creek Conservation Authority sent me the following review:

" Features of the online parking system. - users go to the website and enter in zone codes and pay for parking on the website - Passport Parking Canada has our fees set up on their website to auto populate and they can pay hourly.

Ease of use for both administrators and the public. - Fairly easy to use - we have had to post our zone codes on our website as it was difficult for some people to find on the Passport Parking Canada website - only complaints from users.

Integration capabilities with existing municipal systems. - No experience with this but we do know other municipalities do use Passport Parking Canada

Any challenges or lessons learned during the implementation process. - We do not have good cell signals in our area, so users need to purchase before they arrive to the area. No way (for us anyways) to check to see if users that have parked have paid - honour system.

Overall satisfaction with the system and its impact on parking enforcement. - We will be moving away from this as we get new pay gates installed at our main conservation area. This will be kept at our smaller conservation areas and heavily rely on the honour system. We also do not have the staff to support. They send us a monthly bill for their fees - Our fees collected from users is deposited directly into our bank account. "

Other Granting opportunities from **NOHFC** include the following.

The second of these the **Rural Enhancement Funding Stream** has the potential of possible 90% funding for a new Olympus (Zamboni).

1) Enhance Your Community Stream

What Projects are Eligible?

Incremental improvements, repairs, and/or renovations to improve and extend the useful life of capital assets including; social and recreational facilities, municipal assets and community halls, that contribute to a healthy and vibrant community.

The implementation of priority economic development initiatives that respond to an economic opportunity and / or contribute to improved quality of life for a community and/or region, such as:

- Business retention and attraction strategies
- Projects identifying and implementing investment opportunities
- **The construction and/or renovation of capital assets that support community economic development**
- Implementation of community economic development projects, including non- capital costs, technical expertise, incremental project-related human resources
- **Projects aligned with NOHFC's strategic initiatives, as identified by the NOHFC Board of Directors, that address an economic priority in a region or sector**

The NOHFC Board of Directors may consider exceptions to these eligibility criteria for projects that address a priority need in Northern Ontario.

Funding

- Funding is in the form of a conditional contribution, and will generally, not exceed the lesser of 50% of eligible costs or \$2,000,000.

What is Not Eligible?

- Core infrastructure such as municipal public services including roads, bridges, water, and sewer
- Administrative space or office buildings
- Residential projects
- Operating expenses, including routine and on-going maintenance
- Rolling stock
- Stand-alone equipment purchases
- Stand-alone furniture purchases
- Stand-alone studies (feasibility, engineering, strategy etc.)

Program Requirements

2) Rural Enhancement Funding Stream

The Rural Enhancement Funding Stream is designed to support priorities of rural communities to contribute to healthy and strong communities.

What Projects are Eligible?

Incremental improvements, repairs, and/or renovations to improve and extend the useful life of capital assets **including; social and recreational facilities**, municipal assets and community halls, that contribute to a healthy and vibrant community.

The NOHFC Board of Directors may consider exceptions to these eligibility criteria for projects that address a priority need in Northern Ontario.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Identification and alignment with a planning process such as community or organizational plan
- How the project builds on and optimizes the capacity and efficiency of existing infrastructure
- Strength of project plan that identifies the technical, managerial and financial capacity for implementing the project and sustaining the facility
- Applicant should demonstrate how an NOHFC investment is necessary to make the project viable

Funding

- **Funding is in the form of a conditional contribution, and will not exceed:**
- **For communities under 1,500 and Indigenous communities, up to 90% of total eligible costs to a maximum of \$200,000;**
- For communities over 1,500, up to 75% of total eligible costs to a maximum of \$500,000.
- The amount of funding for each project is determined by the NOHFC Board of Directors, and limited funding is available. Not all projects meeting the criteria will necessarily receive funding.
- NOHFC may decline funding where support for a project is considered to fall within the mandate of another federal or provincial government program, except that NOHFC may provide additional assistance to a project once a decision is made under such other program, at NOHFC's sole discretion.

What is Not Eligible?

- Core infrastructure such as municipal public services including roads, bridges, water, and sewer
- Administrative space or office buildings
- Residential projects
- Operating expenses, including routine and on-going maintenance
- Rolling stock
- **Stand-alone equipment purchases**
- Stand-alone furniture purchases
- Stand-alone studies (feasibility, engineering, strategy etc.)

3) Broadband and Cellular Expansion Projects

NOHFC support for broadband and cellular expansion projects is intended to address broadband gaps in northern Ontario by increasing connectivity for unserved or underserved areas.

Who is Eligible?

- Municipalities, municipal organizations, Indigenous Communities, and Community- based-networks or ICT community champions (not-for-profit economic development / innovation centres) in Northern Ontario.
- Eligible NOHFC broadband projects are those projects that have applied to and have been declined funding under other Ontario infrastructure programs, including the Improving Connectivity in Ontario (ICON) program administered by the Ministry of Infrastructure (MOI) and/or do not meet the eligibility requirements.

What projects are Eligible?

- Projects that improve broadband and cellular coverage to areas with broadband download speeds of less than 25 megabits per second (mbps) (un-served or under-served areas).
- Projects must deliver a minimum of 25 mbps to consumers at a cost comparable to cost paid by the nearest urban consumer.
- Projects that expand cellular coverage along the Trans-Canada and King's Highways.
- A minimum of 85 % of eligible costs must be broadband or cellular-related capital and equipment costs (i.e. towers, antennas, electronics, and site buildings).

Evaluation Criteria

- Demonstrate that all reasonable attempts have been made to obtain funding under the ICON program and/or other funding sources (i.e., federal, municipal and private sector).
- Preference will be given to projects that have confirmed all sources of funding.
- Preference will be given to projects that deliver 50 mbps and/or are scalable to 50 mbps.
- Preference will be given to projects that deliver services that offer the lowest cost per customer served.
- Preference will be given to cellular projects that offer improved service (e.g., larger coverage area) and roaming on other networks.
- Proposed broadband/cellular projects should demonstrate improved connectivity and usage of information technology to support the competitiveness of existing and new businesses and address gaps in broadband connectivity or increases bandwidth availability and affordability.

Funding

Funding is in the form of a conditional contribution, and will support the following:

- Fifty (50) % of eligible costs up to a maximum of \$1 million dollars per project with a targeted funding of \$500 per dwelling (average) within the coverage area. This cost per dwelling may need to be exceeded in areas where the backhaul network cannot support target speeds; however, it cannot be used to overbuild network solutions.
- Projects that deliver 50 mbps or greater will be considered up to \$1,500 per dwelling.

Program Requirements

- The maximum amount of funding from all government sources will not exceed 90%.
- A copy of a map and identification of property defining the geographic coverage of cellular or broadband projects must be provided with the proposal to NOHFC.
- Applicants must provide an overview of the network design to demonstrate that it can support the delivery of speeds to customers as outlined in applications.

4) Workforce Development Stream

The intent of the Workforce Development Stream is to strengthen and develop Northern Ontario's workforce through business partnerships by offering internships.

Who is Eligible?

Businesses, municipalities, Indigenous communities, and not-for-profit organizations located in Northern Ontario that have been in operation for at least one year and have a minimum of one full-time employee.

What Projects are Eligible?

Salaries/wages and employer's portion of Mandatory Employment Related Costs (MERCs) (e.g.: Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance, mandatory minimum vacation pay, as per Employment Standards Act) for a limited-term internship position of 52 weeks (with at least 35 hours of work per week) for candidates that:

- Are new entrants into the work force, are transitioning to a new career, or the unemployed or underemployed who are entering a new field;
- Have not previously participated in a NOHFC-funded internship;
- Are at least 18 years of age; and
- Reside, and be legally entitled to work, in Canada.

An employer that hires an apprentice under a registered apprenticeship program is eligible for funding provided that all program eligibility criteria are met.

An organization is eligible for two internship positions at a given time.

Applications will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- **The extent to which the position addresses a labour shortage or supports the development of a skilled trade or profession in Northern Ontario**
- **The opportunity for the placement to result in a full-time, permanent job with the applicant or another Northern Ontario business**
- The quality of the skill development opportunity and the potential for the position to provide specific and recognizable transferrable skills
- The quality of the position's work/training plan and direct onsite supervision methods

Funding

For eligible municipalities, Indigenous communities and not-for-profit organizations, funding is in the form of a conditional contribution of up to 90% of an intern's salary and employer's portion of MERCs to a maximum of \$35,000 per year.

5) Community Events Stream

The Community Events Stream supports organizations that host events that increase community profile and promote economic development in Northern Ontario.

Who is Eligible?

Municipalities, Indigenous communities, not-for-profit organizations, and Local Services Boards located in Northern Ontario.

What Projects are Eligible?

- New and recurring in-person or virtual community-based and/or tourism events that attract tourists
- Annual and/or recurring events that include new programming or activities and are anticipated to improve the quality and/or sustainability of the event, such as:
 - Increased attendance
 - Increased tourism expenditure (additional overnight stays, more local spending)
 - Raising the event profile/quality
 - Promoting sustainability of future events
 - Other enhancements, as deemed eligible by NOHFC

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Level of investment from other sources
- Anticipated attendance numbers
- Level of tourism expenditures
- Likelihood of NOHFC funding improving the quality of the event
- Likelihood of NOHFC funding contributing to the sustainability of the event
- Economic impact at a municipal, regional or provincial level
- The impact of possible NOHFC funding on the viability and scope of a proposed event

Funding

- Funding is in the form of a conditional contribution of up to 30% of total eligible costs to a maximum of \$15,000.
- If requested and at NOHFC's discretion, 50% of approved funding can be made available upon execution of the conditional contribution agreement, and the remainder provided after the applicant has submitted the required final event report to NOHFC. Otherwise, full payment can be claimed in one claim after the applicant has provided the required final event report to NOHFC.
- The NOHFC Board of Directors may consider projects exceeding the levels of funding noted above on a case-by-case basis where a project demonstrates a significant economic benefit.
- The amount of funding for each project is determined by the NOHFC Board of Directors, and limited funding is available. Not all projects meeting the criteria will necessarily receive funding.

What is Not Eligible?

- On-going operational costs of an organization
- Event costs of participant travel, alcohol, awards or gifts
- Annual General or Business meetings
- Private sector events and projects led by the federal or provincial governments
- Projects that do not generate economic benefits to Northern Ontario
- Events that have already occurred

The NOHFC Board of Directors may consider exceptions to these eligibility criteria for projects that address a priority economic need in Northern Ontario.

Program Requirements

- Applications must be submitted a minimum of 16 weeks prior to the event date.
- Applications will not be considered for funding events that have already occurred.
- The applicant may be required to reimburse NOHFC if assets financed by NOHFC are sold within the first three years after project completion.

Respectfully Submitted:

John Shymko

Temagami Economic Development Officer