
MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: March 22, 2023
To: Social Services Sub-committee
From: Alex Burgess, Manager of Ontario Works
Kim McElroy, Director of Social Services
Report #: SOC23-012
Attachments: Consortium Member Council Information Report – February, 2023

Title: Service System Manager Bi-Monthly Update to Council

Objective: To provide an update from the Stratford-Bruce Peninsula Service System Manager on the activities of the Consortium.

Background: Counties of Bruce (lead), Grey, Huron, and the City of Stratford were selected as the Employment Service System Manager (SSM) for the Stratford – Bruce Peninsula Economic Region by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skill Development (MLITSD) as part of Ontario's Employment Services Transformation in the Spring of 2022. The SSM is to build and implement a locally responsive employment services system that effectively meets the needs of a diverse range of job seekers and employers in the catchment area.

The City of Stratford currently has representation on all committees identified in the governance structure and is an active participant in helping to reshape the employment services landscape as a member of the SSM. Locally, the Ontario Works Division continues to prepare for the transformation go-live date of April 1, 2023, whereby Ontario Works employment supports will be uploaded to the SSM.

Analysis: The attached update titled the "Consortium Member Council Information Report" details the activities being undertaken as of February 2023 and the work that has been done by the Consortium to date. The last update, provided in Report SOC23-006 highlighted the work being undertaken as of November, 2022 as well as budgetary impacts as a result of the Employment Services Transformation.

This February update provides a snapshot of the work currently being undertaken by the SSM to effect positive and long-lasting systemic changes to the employment services in the Stratford-Bruce Peninsula economic region.

Financial Implications:

Financial impact to current year operating budget:

As detailed in report SOC23-006, all impacts on the local budget have been detailed in the 2023 budget package.

Financial impact on future year operating budget:

As detailed in report SOC23-006, there is a further reduction in the Ontario Works budget for 2024 due to the transfer of Employment Supports funding to the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD).

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Strengthening our Plans, Strategies and Partnerships

Partnering with the community to make plans for our collective priorities in arts, culture, heritage and more. Communicating clearly with the public around our plans and activities.

Widening our Economic Opportunities

Strengthening Stratford's economy by developing, attracting and retaining a diversity of businesses and talent.

Alignment with One Planet Principles:

Health and Happiness

Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing.

Equity and Local Economy

Creating safe, equitable places to live and work which support local prosperity and international fair trade.

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "February 2023 Service System Manager Bi-Monthly Update to Council" (SOC23-012), be received for information.

Prepared by:

Recommended by:

Alex Burgess, Manager of Ontario Works

Kim McElroy, Director of Social Services

Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer