

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: April 15, 2025
To: Social Services Sub-committee
From: Alex Burgess, Manager of Ontario Works
Report Number: SOC25-004
Attachments: SSM Report to Council 2025-01.pdf

Title: Stratford-Bruce Peninsula Employment Service System Manager (SSM)
Consortium Member Update

Objective: To provide Council with an update regarding the activities of the Stratford-Bruce Peninsula Employment Service System Manager (SSM).

Background: The Counties of Bruce (lead), Grey, Huron, and the City of Stratford are the Employment Service System Manager (SSM), funded entirely by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD), for the Stratford – Bruce Peninsula Economic Region. 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. Integrated Employment Services Delivery (IESD), the SSM newly designed system went live on April 1, 2023. This report provides a semi-annual update to Council on the performance of the SSM, and updates on future work to be completed.

Analysis: The attached document, “SSM Report to Council 2025-01” provides an update on the activities of the Employment Service System Manager and highlights the performance of the program over the last two quarters of 2024. Specifically, the update provides information and outcomes related to Client Intakes, Client Outcomes, Service to Priority Populations and Program Outcomes. Furthermore, the report highlights program successes alongside continuous improvement strategies that work to improve network capacity in an effort to produce high quality employment services.

Lastly, the report provides a 2025-27 funding update regarding core funding received from MLITSD.

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.

Financial Implications:

Not applicable:

This report is for information only and provides an update regarding the activities of the Stratford-Bruce Peninsula Employment Service System Manager (SSM). There are no financial implications because of this report. The SSM is fully funded by MLITSD and is directly operated by Bruce County.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Work Together For Greater Impact

This report aligns with this priority as the focus of the SSM, the Employment Service Providers and the Ontario Works Division is to create meaningful partnerships that move our shared clients toward successful employment. Through these partnerships, we aim to improve the lives of the residents across Stratford, St Marys and Perth County.

Intentionally Change to Support the Future

This report aligns with this priority as the SSM is working with local Employment Ontario providers, employers and municipal partners to ensure the employment programs in the area meet the needs of the local community and continue to review the successes of the program with an aim to further enhance the services available.

Alignment with One Planet Principles:

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, "SSM Consortium Member Update" (SOC25-004), and dated April 15, 2025, be received for information.

Prepared by:	Alex Burgess, Manager of Ontario Works
Recommended by:	Kim McElroy, Director of Social Services
	Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer