



## Staff Report

**Report Title: Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program**

**Prepared By: Mike Fair, Director of Community Services**

**Department: Community Services**

**Date: Dec. 19, 2022**

**Report Number: CS-2022-12-70**

**File Number:**

**F11 GICB 22**

**Attachments: Conceptual plans, JBB Proposal, Pretium Proposal**

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### **Recommendation:**

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Council hereby approves Report Number CS-2022-12-70 prepared by Mike Fair, Director of Community Services and authorizes the agreement with Pretium Consultants from Waterloo for \$9 400.00 plus HST.

### **Background:**

In 2015 and 2016 GM Diemert Architects completed community engagement with service clubs, user groups and staff in regard to conceptual plans for the Ripley-Huron Community Centre for future consideration if and when grant funding was available. The plans were adopted by Council in principle in 2016. Staff also submitted a grant application with Council approval for similar work in 2019 to infrastructure Canada and the application was not successful.

The Government of Canada announced up to \$1.5 billion in federal funding over five years to establish the GICB Program. The Program support retrofits, repairs or upgrades of existing publicly-accessible community buildings and the construction of new publicly-accessible community buildings that serve underserved and high-needs communities across Canada.

### **The Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program (GICB)**

The program was released on December 5<sup>th</sup> 2022. The following is a brief description of the program. Community buildings are non-commercial community-oriented structures and spaces that provide open, available, and accessible community services to the public. With this Program, the Government of Canada is making investments to improve the availability and condition of community buildings – in

particular in areas with populations experiencing higher needs – while also making the buildings more energy efficient, lower carbon, resilient, and high performing.

The Program focuses on publicly accessible community buildings with a recognition that these structures and spaces are at the heart of community vitality: they are the places where Canadians gather, access essential services, and learn and play. The quality, availability and location of these spaces – along with the services that they sustain – plays a meaningful role in fostering inclusion in society and combating systemic inequities.

The applicant must submit their building's structural information, energy profile, and GHG emissions using the RETScreen® Expert software (retrofits only).

**The following community buildings/assets are eligible for retrofit projects:**

Community, culture and recreation facilities (e.g. community centres; public sports and recreation facilities; cultural buildings; child and youth centres; community adult learning centres; seniors activity centres)

Community health and wellness facilities (e.g. food safety and security, community food storage facilities, greenhouses, and food banks; community health centres; addiction and mental health centres; rehabilitation centres, etc.)

Indigenous health and social infrastructure facilities (e.g. short-term medical recovery facilities, long-term care facilities/elders lodges, family violence and homeless shelters)

Indigenous education facilities (e.g. schools, universities and colleges, adult learning centres, early childhood and daycares)

**Funding Formula**

Huron-Kinloss would qualify for the eighty percent (80%) funding formula. Many of the capital projects over the next ten years would qualify for the GICB program. The total project costs could be over \$4 million.

The application deadline is February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The conceptual plans are attached.

**Discussion:**

The mandatory Retscreen software is an excellent tool for baseline modelling for energy consumption and can assess retrofits upgrades and renovations to determine cost benefit analysis and return on the investment. The goal for any facility is to reduce or eliminate the costs of electricity and gas from the operating budget.

Staff are familiar with the mandatory Retscreen energy modelling software, however modelling the Ripley-Huron Community Centres baseline energy profile is not feasible and beyond our abilities with such a timeline. Retscreen modelling software for the purposes of this grant application is a requirement. If the grant application is not successful, the modelling would be used to guide all future projects for the Ripley-Huron Community Centre to determine costs benefit analysis and return on investment. The GICB program would also include many of the eligible capital projects included in the ten year capital plan.

Staff has solicited two proposals from consultants that work with Retscreen software and sustainable retrofits projects. Pretium Consulting from Waterloo provided a proposal for \$9 400.00 plus HST. JBB Consultants from London provided a proposal for \$12 500.00 plus HST. Both proposals will meet the needs of the grant application.

Staff recommends Pretium Consultants from Waterloo for \$9 400.00 plus HST and will bring further details regarding the GICB program application back to the January 16<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, and or the February Committee of the whole meeting for review.

**Financial Impacts:**

The \$9 400.00 project was not included in the 2022 budget, however there are sufficient funds in the 2022 budget to cover the expenditure.

**Strategic Alignment / Link:**

We are a prosperous community that continues to grow in a sustainable manner  
By investing in infrastructure

We are a vibrant community that values our uniqueness and creativity.  
By creating places where people want to be

We are an accessible community that offers opportunities for everyone.  
By having amenities and services nearby  
By being age friendly  
By enhancing our mobility  
By being accessible for those with disabilities  
By being open and transparent

We are an environmentally conscious community that are good stewards of our natural environment.  
By using our resources wisely  
By being aware and taking responsibility

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

Mike Fair, Director of Community Services

**Report Approved By:**

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer