



## Staff Report

**Report Title: 2023 February Status Update Manager of Strategic Initiatives**

**Prepared By: Michelle Goetz**

**Department: BED**

**Date: Feb. 6, 2023**

**Report Number: BED-2023-02-8**

**File Number:**

**C11 BED 23**

**Attachments:** None

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### **Recommendation:**

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information report number BED-2023-02-8, prepared by Michelle Goetz, Manager of Strategic Initiatives.

### **Background:**

Our team has been busy planning for 2023 including preparing our budget and business plan for the year! We have lots of great projects and initiatives planned this year and eagerly await the budget to be finalized so we can get started!

### **Discussion:**

#### **Women in Construction**

We submitted our application to the Skills Development Fund for the Women in Construction program. The program is a partnership between the Township, Fanshawe College, the UBC Local 2222, VPI and new this round, Bruce County, and builds off the very successful Women in Carpentry program.

Women in Construction will focus on pre-apprenticeship type training for underrepresented groups in the trades industry. Women make up less than 5% of the work force in the trades and with ongoing labour shortages we need to continue looking outside the regular employment pool for workers to fill the gaps.

The program will provide a full carpentry program that includes employability skills, level 1 carpentry curriculum, in-the-shop training and a work placement; but we will

also provide opportunities for women to try other trades like plumbing or drywall through evening or weekend courses.

We applied to the Skills Development, a program offered in partnership by the Provincial and Federal Governments, for \$465,275 to run the program for one year. This will be enough funding to put another 20 women through the carpentry course, 50 women through the evening or weekend courses and provide enough wrap-around supports for all participants to be successful in the program and throughout their career in the trades. There is no financial contribution required from the Township.

I would like to thank our Project Coordinator, Kristin Dimmick, for the countless hours she put into the application and for her dedication to the program's success! Kristin has been a great addition to our team and the program wouldn't be the same without her!

### **EDCO Conference**

Amy Irwin, Business and Economic Officer and I will be travelling to EDCO – Economic Developer's Council of Ontario from February 7-10<sup>th</sup> 2023 for their annual conference and awards banquet. Huron-Kinloss was chosen as a finalist for the Rural Excellence Award that will be presented on Thursday night at the President's Dinner. The agenda is jam-packed with speakers and panels that cover many important aspects of economic development including:

- Are you investment ready? Preparing your community for Major Investment
- Innovation in agri-business: How technology is changing the face of agriculture
- Let's talk solutions: A Collaborative Approach to solving Workforce Challenges
- A Day in the Life of an Economic Developer
- Digital Strategies to Ensure Your Community is Investment Ready
- And much more!

We are excited to network with our peers and learn more about the trends and initiatives happening in our Province and beyond. Amy and I will provide a report to Council for March COW that details what we learned and how we can apply those learnings to Huron-Kinloss.

### **Clean Energy Frontier Summit**

On January 13<sup>th</sup>, Amy Irwin, Business and Economic Officer, Don Murray, Mayor, and I attended the Clean Energy Frontier Summit in Walkerton, Ontario. The summit was a great day of learning and networking. The keynote speaker, Brock Dickinson, provided his detailed perspective of our future economic outlook. His presentation "It's the end of the world as we know it, and I feel fine" described how Canada is not looking too bad, economically, but we need to make the effort to ensure this trend continues. He mentioned the collapse of globalization and the need to be self-

sufficient, and that Canada is set up, with our North American partners, to be just that. It was a very interesting perspective.

We also heard from Mike Rencheck, President and CEO of Bruce Power, you can see his presentation here: [Clean Energy Summit](#).

The day was rounded out by presentations from Indigenous business owners in the nuclear sector, Catapult Grey-Bruce and panel of local economic development professionals.

Furthermore, we had an opportunity to participate in table group discussions about workforce development, housing, and municipal infrastructure. Our table was very engaged and had great discussion about public-private partnerships, the need for transportation and workforce development, and how we can work more effectively as a region vs. individually.

We left the summit with great insight about the opportunities coming to the region because of Bruce Power, Medical Isotopes, Hydrogen, the NII and the Clean Energy Frontier, as well as the opportunities in tourism and agriculture.

**Financial Impacts:**

None at this time.

**Strategic Alignment / Link:**

The information provided in this report is consistent with and in keeping with the Municipality's Vision & Mission. The recommendations contribute to the goals in achieving a prosperous, spirited, vibrant, environmentally conscious and accessible community.

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

Michelle Goetz, Manager of Strategic Initiatives

**Report Approved By:**

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer