



Staff Report

Report Title: Early Investment in Education and Skills 2021

Prepared By: Elyse Dewar, Project Coordinator

Department: CAO

Date: Feb. 1, 2021

Report Number: CAO-2021-02-5

File Number: NWMO-100

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole approves report Number CAO-2021-02-05 prepared by Elyse Dewar, Project Coordinator and in doing so supports the Early Investment in Education and Skills Program.

Background:

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) is working with communities to build capacity for participation in the Adaptive Phased Management project. This includes investments in training and education to equip community members, including youth, to work at the Centre of Expertise, and in site preparation, construction and operation activities. These investments are intended to include transferable skills that could be applied to other projects or workplaces as well.

The Early Investment in Education and Skills program was developed to support education and skills training for Huron-Kinloss residents as well as provide funding for youth with an emphasis on learning initiatives that focus on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Expenses in this EIES program may include: Traditional Knowledge-related education, work experience in a community-minded endeavor, local/regional job fairs to support students in understanding opportunities for post-secondary/trades, workshops for general skills development on topics such as computer literacy, business planning, proposal writing, bookkeeping, first aid training, project planning, conflict resolution skills, communication training, and grants for skills training programs.

The Huron-Kinloss Nuclear Waste Community Advisory Committee and Huron-Kinloss Council approved the community plan in 2017 and the guidelines for the EIES program.

Discussion:

Since 2017, this program has invested \$105,000 back into the community through workplace training, continuing education and support for youth initiatives.

The program funding for 2021 is \$30,000. The 2021 program guidelines are attached to this report. The NWCAC will not be meeting to approve these guidelines.

The 2020 EIES program had some challenges due to COVID-19. Summer camps were cancelled; group training workshops were cancelled and students were unable to participate in robotics programs. However, staff is hopeful 2021 will allow everyone to benefit from the EIES funding and all programs move forward as planned.

Upon approval, staff will begin promoting the program and begin scheduling STEM related summer camps for students based on provincial restrictions and public health safety measures.

Financial Impacts:

The EIES program funding is provided by the NWMO.

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 our goals in achieving a spirited community that takes pride in calling Huron-Kinloss home and by supporting a diversity of lifestyles, by maintaining a sense of connection and cohesion with each other and retaining our youth and engaging in our community. Projects in this report assist staff in achieving the following projects in the 2019-2023 Strategic Action Plan: P2.4 Continue to learn about the NWMO DGR Project

Respectfully Submitted By:

Elyse Dewar, Project Coordinator

Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer