



## Staff Report

**Report Title: Municipal Innovation Council Update**

**Prepared By: Mary Rose Walden, CAO**

**Department: CAO**

**Date: Sep. 8, 2021**

**Report Number: CAO-2021-09-26**

**File Number:**

**C11 MIC21**

### **Attachments:**

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### **Recommendation:**

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report CAO-2021-09-26 prepared by Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer.

### **Background:**

The Municipal Innovation Council's Innovation Officer (Dave Shorey) submitted his resignation notice to the MIC Chair on Thursday, August 26th, 2021. Shorey will serve the MIC in the Innovation Officer position until Friday, September 17th, 2021. Multiple options are being considered and sourced to provide the staffing support needed to sustain the MIC's growth and success.

### **Discussion:**

Since starting in the Innovation Officer role, Dave Shorey has remained committed to building an innovation ecosystem that fosters collaborative problem solving amongst all members. He developed a [strategic framework](#) with municipal leaders to identify opportunities that the membership can influence and change.

Shorey has managed [multiple projects](#) in the MIC that align with the MIC's strategic framework. and also promoted the MIC innovation ecosystem by authoring and maintaining a blog and LinkedIn page, actively engaging with elected officials and staff in multiple provincial ministries and establishing "Communities of Practice" that connect municipal staff from across the membership to learn together, identify pain points, and solve problems.

The MIC has numerous projects underway that will positively impact the quality of life for visitors and residents of its participating member municipalities. Those include:

- Identifying, procuring, and implementing an advanced digital mapping solution for natural disaster mitigation and climate change impact monitoring;
- Co-leading the development of a Smart Beach infrastructure program that enhances swimmer safety along Lake Huron shoreline, provides a platform for real-time water quality sensing, and monitors shoreline transformations in high traffic areas in partnership with Microsoft, the University of Windsor, NPX, the Nuclear Innovation Institute, Mitacs, and member municipalities;
- A co-op student from Conestoga College has been hired for the Fall 2021 term to advance progressive procurement practices amongst members;
- A Municipal Modernization Program (Intake 2) funded project that advances recommendations from this summer's MIC project on IT business analysis with a focus on the development of shared IT service solutions amongst member municipalities;
- The ongoing prioritization of hiring and developing co-op students that support the advancement of MIC priorities and build a talent pipeline that helps address succession planning and organizational development needs; and
- The prioritization and advancement of recommendations provided to the MIC through the applied research projects focusing on downtown revitalization, municipal procurement, organizational development, municipal service analysis, and IT business analysis.

The MIC will be undertaking a workplan development session with MIC members on Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 that integrates recommendations from multiple projects and ongoing work (see above) and determining a priority set of actions for the remaining mandate. In addition, the MIC will also be looking at both a short-term and long-term transition plan to ensure the great work coming out of this collaboration, continues to evolve and grow to support member municipalities.

Due to the MIC's ongoing work, multiple options are being considered and sourced to provide the staffing support needed to sustain the MIC's growth and success.

**Financial Impacts:**

There are no financial impacts associated with this report.

**Strategic Alignment / Link:**

We are a prosperous community that continues to grow in a sustainable manner.

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer

**Approved By:**

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer