



The Corporation of the City of Cornwall
Regular Meeting of Council
Report

Department: Corporate Services
Division: Human Resources
Report Number: 2020-303-Corporate Services
Prepared By: Geoffrey Clarke, General Manager
Meeting Date: July 13, 2020
Subject: COVID-19 Update

Purpose

To provide Council with an update regarding the ongoing items of interest and city operations regarding COVID-19 related activities.

Recommendation

That Council receive Report 2020-303-Corporate Services.

Financial Implications

The City has received, or will be receiving, Provincial and Federal funding to offset some of the expenses it has incurred by responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The schedule attached outlines funding notices/announcements for the recovery of costs incurred, such as, temporary pandemic pay, personal protective equipment (PPE), cleaning supplies, etc. Where available, Administration has submitted applications for funding. The City has received notice of \$180,142.50 to support tourism efforts and \$3,650 for the expansion of the meals on wheel program.

Further financial detail will be provided to Council at its August 10, 2020 meeting through the Second Quarter Financial Report.

Municipal call for emergency financial support: Both the federal and provincial governments have implemented financial assistance programs to help citizens and businesses that may be struggling financially as a result of COVID-19. Due to lost revenues and additional costs, municipal governments are no different in their need for financial support.

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Ontario Public Transit Association (OPTA), Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH), Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario (MFOA) and other municipal associations, on behalf of municipalities, continue to call on senior levels of government for this support.

July 6, 2020

Standing together municipal leaders today have called for immediate provincial and federal support to cover lost revenue and additional costs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in order to protect municipal services that people depend on for their daily lives.

AMO, LUMCO (Large Urban Mayor's Caucus of Ontario), MARCO (Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario) and the City of Toronto, representing all municipal governments in the province, are calling for at least \$10 billion dollars in emergency relief for Canadian municipalities to be funded 100% by the federal and provincial governments. This call supports the national funding call led by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

The FCM proposal would provide approximately \$4 billion to Ontario municipalities to offset lost transit revenues and added service costs, but there has been no clear signal on the timing and level of a joint federal-provincial financial assistance program yet. Municipal leaders have been patient so far for this expected funding relief but the time for a commitment from the senior orders of government is running out.

Without these federal-provincial emergency funds now, municipal governments may have to significantly increase property taxes and/or make harmful cuts to frontline municipal services. Such cuts or property tax increases will unfairly hurt the very same people that the federal and provincial governments have spent billions helping during the pandemic.

Municipal services are key to safely re-opening the economy. Investing in municipalities now is necessary so they can continue to provide services needed to help restart their local economies.

Background / Discussion

Since Administration last updated Council on our activities there has been a tremendous amount of change in our approach to how we offer services within the City; and likewise as the situation remains fluid, we are constantly having to adjust and review how we might deliver these services to the citizens of Cornwall.

Emergency Pandemic Pay: As the original communication from the Province was released on April 20, 2020, we have recently been provided the funding packet meant to compensate us from the Province.

We have established the internal payroll processes along with the accompanying protocols required to begin to provide this pay to eligible employees.

Pools & Splash Pads: The City has also opened all public outdoor pools, along with the main pool at the Aquatic Centre. The outdoor pools are available by booking a time with only a set number of people being allowed into the deck area with a screening process as the first point of contact when arriving at the pool.

The splash pads had originally opened with a limited number of people to be able to use it, with strict social distancing protocols in place; however, we have now moved to less restrictive measures and are using signage to ask people to respect the risk of COVID-19 and to keep social distances as appropriate.

Opening Municipal Buildings: The City has put a tremendous amount of effort in ensuring that the proper social distancing, and protective shields are in place for both public and employee safety. These include protective barriers at all counters with public interaction; stickers demarking social distancing on the floors as well as cordoning off all areas not accessible to the public. As we opened the buildings, we have made the operating hours fairly limited in scope, but we are actively looking at plans where we might begin to expand the hours of operation.

Richelieu Day Care: There continues to be a significant demand for childcare spaces that further supports parents returning to work as more restrictions have been lifted through Stage Two. Richelieu Day Care will open on July 13th with two preschool groups of 8 children (16 in total). In the weeks ahead there will likely be an opportunity to add a few more spaces. Public Health protocols and additional staffing requirements have restricted the number of spaces that can be provided safely.

Face Coverings in Public: We have adopted a face covering policy that is applicable to all employees within municipal buildings. The policy was developed similarly to the policy that was enacted by the City of Kingston. For all office environments, a face covering is not required when alone within an office, however, will be required when leaving the office for public spaces, or if a member of the public should enter into the office while they are in it.

Summary

In consideration of the above criteria and assessed on the whole, the City is taking the proper steps in preventing barriers within the workplace and providing an inclusive environment free of systemic discriminatory practices.

Document Title:	COVID-19 Update - 2020-303-Corporate Services.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jul 8, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Mark A. Boileau - Jul 7, 2020 - 1:44 PM

Tracey Bailey - Jul 8, 2020 - 8:46 AM

Maureen Adams - Jul 8, 2020 - 9:16 AM