



City of
Peterborough

To: **Members of the Committee of the Whole**

From: **Ken Doherty, Director of Community Services**

Meeting Date: **May 8, 2017**

Subject: **Report CSD17-012
United Nations Designation Peterborough-Kawarthas Regional
Centre of Expertise on Sustainable Development**

Purpose

A report to receive a presentation regarding the United Nations Designation for Peterborough-Kawarthas as a Regional Centre of Expertise on Sustainable Development.

Recommendation

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report CSD17-012, dated May 8, 2017, of the Director of Community Services, as follows:

That the presentation on the United Nations Designation for Peterborough-Kawarthas as a Regional Centre of Expertise on Sustainable Development by Brianna Salmon, from Green-up be received.

Budget and Financial Implications

There is no budget or financial implications in receiving this report or the presentation.

Background

The Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) and a network of higher education institutions called the Promotion of Sustainability in Postgraduate Education were launched by the United Nations University. The goal of the RCE Network is to recognize regions from around the world that demonstrate leadership in addressing complex sustainability challenges and support the transfer of knowledge, experiences and technology.

In May 2016, a small group of local stakeholders and organizations including Green-up, Camp Kawartha, Sustainable Peterborough, Fleming College, Trent University and For Our Grandchildren, completed an Expression of Interest application, which was sent to the United Nations University. The local stakeholders were invited to submit a full proposal, and in September a document had been submitted for juried review. The geographic scope of the application included the City of Peterborough, the County of Peterborough, the City of Kawartha Lakes, the County of Haliburton, Curve Lake First Nation, Hiawatha First Nation, Alderville First Nation, and the Mississaugas of Scugog First Nation.

In the application, 5 long-term objectives were identified to guide the Network moving forward:

- To recognize the vital importance of Indigenous Knowledge systems as they engage across all curricula
- To implement age-appropriate sustainability and stewardship education frameworks from pre-school to secondary school in formal and informal settings
- To build strong bridges between school curriculum and the spectrum of programs offered at Trent University and Fleming College
- To link post-secondary programs and community-based training programs to green jobs, research, and innovation in the regions; and
- To develop reciprocal exchanges of sustainability knowledge and practice between residents within the regions and with communities across the globe.

In December 2016 the local group received confirmation that the region had received the designation. The success of the application speaks to the long history of transformative and collaborative education to achieve local and global sustainability goals. Peterborough-Kawarthas is only the third region in Ontario and the eighth in Canada to have received this designation and is among a select group of 150 communities globally.

Green-up chose to act as the Interim Network Secretariat and has received funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to hire a Network Administrator and Advisor, both whom will support the development of governance structures and an action plan over the next year. A RCE Network Launch will take place in May to bring together partners from across the region and begin the process of formalizing the new partnership.

Brianna Salmon, on behalf of the Sustainability group will provide a brief presentation on the designation and what it could mean for the region.

Submitted by,

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