



City of
Peterborough

TO: Members of the Joint Services Steering Committee

FROM: Ken Doherty, Director of Community Services

MEETING DATE: April 14, 2011

SUBJECT: Report CSSSJSSC11-002
Peterborough Employment Resource Centre (PERC)
Contract Renewal

PURPOSE

A report to provide the Joint Services Steering Committee with information regarding the contract between the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities (MTCU) and the City of Peterborough for the delivery of the PERC program.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Joint Services Steering Committee endorse the recommendation outlined in Report CSSSJSSC11-002 dated April 14, 2011, of the Director of Community Services, as follows:

That the PERC Contract Renewal Report be received for information.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no additional budget or financial implications to the City or County of Peterborough resulting from the approval of the recommendation of Report CSSSJSSC11-002. The costs associated with the PERC program are funded through a 100% provincial subsidy from MTCU and included in the 2011 operating budget.

In recommendation (c) (i) of Report CPFRA08-008, dated March 31, 2008, Council approved delegating authority to the Director of Community Services to enter into agreements or extensions of existing agreements with various Provincial Ministries that fund Social Services program delivery, where 100% dollars can be accessed. The Director of Community Services has accepted a 12-month contract extension and funding allocation of \$502,234, in accordance with this delegated authority.

BACKGROUND

The City entered into an agreement for the operation of the PERC with Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) in 1999. PERC is an employment assistance program with a mandate to support community members seeking employment in a self-help environment. These services include access to computers, job boards, fax, photocopiers, Internet and workshops in resume writing and job search strategies. PERC staff served 12,613 area residents who made a combined 30,992 visits to the main office site and outreach locations in 2010.

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) assigned its obligations under the PERC agreement to MTCU in November 2007. That agreement has been extended and amended several times since then, the most recent ending March 31, 2011. PERC is funded through a 100% provincial grant under the umbrella of Employment Ontario (EO). MTCU undertook a review of existing EO employment and training services, with a goal to reduce the number of service providers, in order to streamline access in a one-stop approach. Report C55508-017, presented to Council on November 3, 2008, outlined the review process Employment Ontario was undertaking and approval was granted to submit a capacity survey so the PERC could be considered as a potential service provider.

MTCU made the first announcements regarding the new EO service model in late January 2010. It is expected that the transformation of employment and training services will be fully planned and implemented by April 2012. The January announcements did not address service providers that assist persons with disabilities such as the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Canadian Hearing Society and Canadian Mental Health Association, or stand-alone employment resource centres such as PERC. MTCU is continuing to develop service strategies for stand-alone employment resource centres and services for persons with disabilities.

While the Ministry considers its options, an invitation was offered to the City to enter into an extension for the period from April 1, 2011 until March 31, 2012, with a funding allocation of \$502,234. MTCU has allowed full flexibility to transfer any under spending between budget lines to remain within the approved allocation. If the City is not selected to provide employment information and referral services in the restructured EO network, MTCU has committed to a six-month “wind-down” notice period and funding of

necessary expenses such as severance pay, penalties for breaking leases, equipment rentals and administrative fees.

Over the past 11 years, PERC funding has offset some municipal expenses for employment supports benefiting social assistance participants. Under provisions of the Ontario Works (OW) Act, the Social Services Division is required to ensure that OW participants have access to employment resource centre services through an on-site location or, in a co-located/co-managed centre with other partners. Participants who require basic labour market orientation and lack job preparation skills are not likely to be successful in an independent job search without the supports typically offered through an employment resource centre. It may be necessary for the Social Services Division to consider establishing a smaller scale resource centre to support social assistance participants should MTCU funding end.

The 2011 City budget was prepared in anticipation of a contract extension and additional operating funds. Legal Services staff has reviewed the terms of the extension and authorization of the Mayor and City Clerk will be required to execute the agreement.

The MTCU allocation and revised City budget is detailed in Table 1.0- PERC Budget Summary below.

Table 1.0 - PERC Budget Summary

PERC Budget April 1, 2011 - March 31, 2012			
	MTCU ACCOUNTS	MTCU Grant Apr – Dec '11	MTCU Grant Jan – Mar '12
1A	Activity Related Direct Project Costs	304,215	101,404
	Staff Wages & Benefits	230,715	76,904
	Professional Fees	18,750	6,250
	Other Activity Related Direct Project Costs	54,750	18,250
1B	Participant Related Direct Project Costs	7,500	2,500
1C	Other Direct Project Costs	18,703	6,234
2	Organizational Infrastructure Costs	46,258	15,420
	Totals	376,676	125,558

SUMMARY

The Director of Community Services has accepted a 12-month PERC contract extension in accordance with delegated authority, which includes a 100% provincial budget allocation of \$502,234 for the period April 1, 2011 until March 31, 2012. During the extension period, MTCU will be considering strategies for the delivery of services to persons with disabilities and stand-alone employment resource centers such as PERC. A future Joint Services Steering Committee report will provide an update of the Ministry's decisions and impact on existing PERC services.

Submitted by,

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