



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**To:** Members of the General Committee

**From:** Mayor Diane Therrien

**Meeting Date:** June 14, 2021

**Subject:** Report COU21-002  
The Community Recovery and Resilience Task Force  
Recommendations

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## **Purpose**

This Report is to create recovery recommendations for consideration by Peterborough City Council regarding social services (including housing and homelessness supports); support for the arts, culture, and heritage sector; support for the sports and recreation sector; greenspaces, natural areas, and parks; food security and renewable energy; support for increasing energy and water efficiency; and waste management and transportation services delivered by the City of Peterborough.

## **Recommendations**

That Council approve the recommendations outlined in Report COU21-002 dated June 14, 2021, of the Task Force, as follows:

- a) The Task Force will pursue external funding opportunities that can support emergent needs for local COVID recovery. As possible, the Task Force members will support collaboration between agencies, sectors, and/or the municipality to strengthen local applications;
- b) Task Force to work with City staff to identify specific financial investments, stimulus measures and City/arts sector partnerships and collaborations to provide support to professional artists, address on-going revenue challenges for arts organizations, help the sector prepare for safe and successful re-opening, and prevent permanent closures and loss.

- c) Task force to work with City staff to implement improvements in some of the key arts specific policies, processes, systems and practices at Peterborough City Hall to strengthen its response to the COVID-19 pandemic and future crises, as well as its ability to support hard-hit sectors in the community. These should include grant program management and advisory committee's operations
- d) City staff to work with Task Force to search for funding options to be used as an opportunity to fund public space transformation related to environmental or arts priorities;
- e) City staff to work with Task Force to develop a plan to further educate the public about the environmental impacts of personal protective equipment and the increased plastic waste due to COVID. Support anti-littering campaigns and initiatives;
- f) City staff to gather resources for mental health and wellbeing on the City of Peterborough website. Data from the webpage should be evaluated to better inform the Task Force on which services are accessed more to guide advocacy work and further enhance the resources provided;
- g) City to work with Task Force to provide Remote Wellness Workshops to help the mental wellbeing of those in Peterborough;
- h) Review the Indigenous presence within city facilities and seek opportunities to consult with and incorporate Peterborough's Indigenous community in existing spaces (e.g., Wellness Centre). Create opportunities for positive connections between urban Indigenous and the broader Peterborough communities;
- i) Peterborough City staff should continue efforts to enhance public spaces in the downtown core, in partnership with GreenUP, the DBIA, and the Vibrancy Project. These projects should respond to COVID-19 recommendations and emphasize accessibility, safety, and inclusion;
- j) City staff to investigate and institute more ways to have a holistic integrated form of communication between advisory committees, the different divisions in City Hall, and on the ground agencies, this could be done through a quarterly meeting or symposium, by developing venues for ongoing dialogue between city departments and local community groups and agencies etc.;
- k) Task Force to work with City Staff to look for opportunities to seek direct input from vulnerable community members about initiatives that will support their well-being;
- l) City to create a permanent emergency advisory committee as part of the city's emergency response plan that is renewed every year so that when a crisis

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- happens there is a core group of people from the community that are ready to come together and work with Councillors and the City;
- m) City staff to continue to promote Peterborough's Public Health's effort to communicate pandemic related information regarding general safety measures and the vaccination rollout and other public health information on an ongoing basis;
  - n) The Task Force will bring forward on going community priorities and intersecting issues related to COVID-19 recovery. As relevant, these will be shared with existing Municipal Advisory Committees for information;
  - o) Explore ways to recognize the important economic and social contributions that Peterborough's vibrant arts and culture community make to the well-being of all citizens and to the quality of life of in the City of Peterborough. Promote on-going collaboration with and support of the arts, culture and heritage sector to ensure its long-term resiliency;
  - p) City staff to work with Task Force to enhance and protect green spaces and waterways within the city (parks, trails, natural areas, and the urban forest), ensuring ecosystem health and promoting equitable access for all residents, during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic;
  - q) City staff to work with Task Force to lead and fund efforts to address the ongoing climate crisis by accelerating the implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan. Draw lessons learned from the community-wide response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Support community-based initiatives that engage residents and businesses in climate action (e.g., GreenUP programs);
  - r) City staff to consult with local organizations and advocates to consider the benefits derived from incorporating 'shovel worthy' Indigenous, environmental, cultural, and social values into project evaluation and development;
  - s) City Staff to develop and implement a communications plan to educate the public about the impacts of idling and promote or enforce anti-idling at locations where COVID-19 has increased the incidence of vehicles being left on while waiting (e.g. testing centres, vaccine centres, school zones) and investigate ways the City can reduce the impacts of idling City vehicles;
  - t) City staff to investigate ways to promote connections and sustainable practices between consumers and local food producers to respond to food security issues and build long-term resiliency in terms of access to food and sustainable practice, through initiatives such as Local Food Peterborough;

- u) City staff to continue promoting active transportation and physical activity while following public health guidelines to ensure the health and wellbeing of citizens and protect our natural environment.

## **Budget and Financial Implications**

There are no current direct budget or financial implications as a result of the recommendations.

## **Background**

The City of Peterborough is facing a number of challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, and different parts of the community have faced hardship in varying ways. While a Mayor's and Warden's Regional Economic Recovery Task Force was formed in April 2020 to consider how to support the local business community, the immense impact of COVID-19 also requires a broader look at other parts of the community that will need assistance in order to recover.

## **Timelines**

The process to implement the recommendations of this report will begin immediately following approval by Council.

Submitted by,

Mayor Diane Therrien

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Mayor

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Attachment:

Appendix A – Community Recovery and Resilience Task Force Terms of Reference

