



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**TO:** Members of the Arts, Culture & Heritage Advisory Committee (ACHAC)

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

**MEETING DATE:** April 14, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Report ACHAC11-010  
Sustainable Peterborough

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## **PURPOSE**

A report to inform the Committee on the status and progress of the Sustainable Peterborough project.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Arts, Culture & Heritage Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report ACHAC11-010 dated April 14, 2011 of the Director of Community Services as follows:

That the report to inform the Committee on the status and progress of the Sustainable Peterborough project be received for information.

## **BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no budgetary or financial implications as a result of approving the recommendation in report ACHAC11-010.

## BACKGROUND

On April 6, 2009 City Council endorsed the Sustainable Peterborough Steering Committee's proposal to apply to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) for funding to develop an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) for the City, County, Townships, perhaps the two local First Nations, and the community at large, with an environmental focus. Council also endorsed the Greater Peterborough Area Economic Development Corporation (GPAEDC) as the lead applicant and the City of Peterborough as lead municipality.

### Defining Sustainability

*Sustainability* has many meanings depending on the audience and circumstance. Common definitions include:

- “living within one's means (financial)
- “replace nationally and internationally produced items with products created locally and regionally” (economic)
- “create objects of durability and long-term utility whose ultimate use or disposition will not be harmful to future generations (environmental)
- “that which supports life or health” (social)

Environmental sustainable is the primary focus for Peterborough's ICSP. However, the consultants from Lura are working to align the sustainability plan with municipal initiatives that address sustainability from other perspectives, such as the Municipal Cultural Plan.

### Why is this plan important?

There is growing public concern about the environment and the need to reduce greenhouse gases. Also, a commitment to environmental sustainability could result in significant cost savings in energy consumption for the municipalities and a corresponding reduction in the local carbon footprint—a timely win-win for both the participating municipalities and the environment.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) have embraced the focus on environmental sustainability and the need for Community Sustainability Plans. Development of such a plan is a pre-requisite to access funding from the FCM's Green Municipal Fund for grants and loans for feasibility studies and projects.

While Official Plans are currently accepted as an alternative to an ICSP for the use of Federal Gas Tax Revenues in Ontario, this requirement could become more stringent in the next iteration of the agreement (2010-2014). In its Sustainability Planning Toolkit, AMO warns that “in 2010, however, municipalities must be in a strong position to demonstrate they have made progress towards greater sustainability.” (p.1)

**Funding**

In December 2009, the FCM confirmed a \$200,000 grant from its Green Municipal Fund towards the project. Subsequently, the province's Rural Secretariat also confirmed a \$29,000 contribution. Later in 2010, Trillium also announced its support by granting \$128,974.60 to cover logistical and staffing support for this regional collaborative project. Together with the initial \$8,000 grant from the Community Foundation and the City's direct contribution of \$80,000, there is now a budget of \$445,974.60, plus dedicated in-kind support from the City, County, Townships, and Community partners to support the development of an ICSP for the area.

**Progress**

Part of the funding has been used to hire Lura, a consulting firm with extensive experience working on sustainability plans, to facilitate the project. The consultants have been working with the Sustainable Peterborough Steering and Community Stakeholder Committees since last summer. They have assessed the current conditions and are now primed to launch an extensive round of public consultations throughout the region.

Submitted by,

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