



## Committee Report

**To:** Warden Mitch Twolan  
Members of the Planning and Development Committee

**From:** Kara Van Myall  
Director of Planning and Development

**Date:** October 15, 2020

**Re:** October 2020 Communications in the Field

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### **Recommendation:**

The October 2020 Communications in the Field Report is for information.

### **Background:**

The October Communications in-the-Field Reports for Economic Development and Land Use Planning - reporting on September activities and updates - are included below.

### **Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:**

There are no financial, staffing, legal or IT considerations associated with this report.

### **Interdepartmental Consultation:**

N/A

### **Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:**

N/A

Approved by:

Sandra Datars Bere  
Chief Administrative Officer

# Communications in-the-Field Report

There are three objectives driving economic development communications in Bruce County: 1) Attract more young families and other residents over time; 2) Attract new and expanding businesses; 3) Encourage sustainable, longer stay and off-season tourism

In response to the urgent, critical needs of Bruce County’s business community in the wake of COVID-19, the Economic Task Force acted quickly after its inception on March 26, providing guidance on the components of the \$1.75M Support the Bruce: Business Sustainability Fund, endorsed by County Council on May 12. Numbers as of \*September 28<sup>th</sup> include:

Component	Total Available	Launched	*# of Applicants	*Approximate Funds Remaining
Emergency Business Sustainability Loan	\$750,000	May 21	21	\$360,500
Spruce the Bruce Grants	\$125,000	June 1	103	\$0
Tourism Special Edition “Spark” Grants	\$100,000	June 4	11	\$0
Business Pivot / Adaptation Grant	\$400,000	June 18	67	\$86,634
Business Safety Supplies Grant	\$250,000	July 23	180	\$0

One-on-one calls with the business owner members of the Bruce County Economic Task Force are underway for insight into the current economic conditions, 8 months post pandemic. This is one of way to research next steps in consideration of supports to businesses.

## ACTIVITIES

- Business Consultation and Inquiry numbers are still increasing-120 inquiries and 31 consultations in September with many new connections being made, as business owners continue to reach out for support in the wake of COVID-19.
- The COVID-19 Tourism Response Fund, supported by FedDev, launched October 1<sup>st</sup> and is accepting submissions through to Oct 16<sup>th</sup>. The fund provides up to \$10,000 for tourism-based operators to assist in their purchases for reopening in response to the COVID-19 restrictions. Successful applications will be announced October 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- The *Economic Impact of COVID-19 in Bruce County Survey, Part 2*, launched October 1<sup>st</sup>. This is another tool to access the current situation of the pandemic on businesses. The results of this survey will be compared to the findings of the 1<sup>st</sup> wave in April.
- **Coming Up:** Business to Bruce launched new webinars focused on business development. [Registration is open](#), and online webinars will continue to run into November.

# Communications in-the-Field Report

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There are three general areas that will be reported monthly, including: 1) Legislative changes and other trends 2) Land Use Transformation project update 3) highlights or planning applications of interest.

## LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

The Province recently implemented changes to the Planning Act and the Development Charges Act that establish a new framework for development related charges, including a new Community Benefit Charge (CBC). Municipalities have two years to comply with the new framework.

## PROJECTS

- The Plan the Bruce: Agriculture, Natural Legacy, Good Growth and Communities Guiding Principle projects will have engagement activities this fall.
- The status of Municipal Modernization Fund projects are as follows:
  1. The report on best practices for the Official Plan for land use planning service delivery is complete and is being presented at the October Planning and Development Committee.
  2. The consultants are finalizing the system design for sharing development /building permit information between County and Local Municipalities and the project is on track.
  3. The Review of Planning Application Fees project has an Interim Report at the October Planning and Development Committee and November will have the Final Report.
  4. The project to Update the Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) for Local Planning Services is underway and will be presented to November Planning and Development Committee.

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- New applications in September (16) were somewhat lower than historical averages.
- An LPAT appeal of a zoning change to permit a 29-unit residential proposal in Tiverton was recently resolved allowing the development to proceed.
- Two rezoning applications were received in Brockton for cannabis production facilities. One is proposed in Eastridge Business Park; the other is proposed in the former Energizer plant.
- Staff approved a Local Official Plan Amendment to permit a change of use from a Church to a mixed commercial/residential use in Walkerton.