



Staff Report to Council - for Direction

Title: Canadian Red Cross Agreement

From: Steve Schaus, Director/Chief, Paramedic Services

Date: December 14, 2023

Staff Recommendation:

That a by-law be introduced authorizing the Warden and Clerk to execute an Emergency Response Agreement between the Corporation of the County of Bruce and the Canadian Red Cross Society; and

That the previous by-law 2021-003 and by-law 2022-095 be rescinded.

Report Summary:

The Emergency Response Agreement with the Canadian Red Cross establishes the parameters for collaboration between the County and the Canadian Red Cross Society in relation to the provision of Emergency Social Services in the event of an Emergency.

Background:

The Corporation of the County of Bruce has had a longstanding partnership with the Canadian Red Cross Society (CRCS) for the provision of emergency response services since October 2014. The current agreement, initially effective from January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2022, was extended by amendment until December 2023. This extension ensured the continuity of emergency response services while CRCS reevaluated their service model and costs based on COVID-19 pandemic experiences and current conditions. Staff have been in negotiations with staff at CRCS and are recommending that the County enter into a new revised agreement for the period of January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2027.

The purpose of this Emergency Response Agreement is to establish parameters for collaboration between the County and the Canadian Red Cross Society in relation to emergency preparedness, emergency response and recovery activities to ensure the provision of humanitarian assistance in the event of an Emergency. At the request of the County, CRCS will provide aid to Emergency-Affected Persons in accordance with its role and capacity as outlined in the Agreement and core emergency response services may include:

- Registration
- Reception and Information
- Family Reunification
- Lodging
- Food

- Clothing
- Transportation
- Personal Services
- Safety and Wellbeing

Additionally, the agreement also specifies CRCS's responsibilities in relation to Emergency Preparedness and specifically includes their responsibility for the following:

- Recruitment and training a volunteer-based workforce to deliver services to Emergency Affected Persons.
- Stocking and maintaining supplies and logistics capacity.
- Participating in County-led emergency preparedness exercises, activities and/or meetings.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

Under the new revised Emergency Response Agreement with CRCS, there will be an adjustment in the cost structure. In 2024, the cost to the County will increase from the current flat rate of \$10,000 per year to a rate of up to a maximum of \$16,000 per year. This cost increase reflects current fiscal conditions, and the increase will enable the CRCS to transition to a cost structure based on actual operating costs which will ensure sustainability of the programming and preparedness services that they provide to the County under the Agreement. The revised agreement also outlines a framework for annual cost increments in line with the provincial rate of inflation. This mechanism will ensure accurate budget forecasting, enabling proactive management of future costs. The agreement also contains standard language regarding privacy, insurance, indemnification and termination.

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

Interdepartmental Consultation:

Human Services - Income & Support Services Manager
 Corporate Services - Insurance and Risk Management Specialist
 Paramedic Services - CEMC

Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:

Community and Partnerships - Enhance and grow partnerships

Link to Departmental Plan Goals and Objectives, if any:

Report Author:

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Departmental Approval:

Steve Schaus - Director/Chief Paramedic Services

Approved for Submission:

Derrick Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer