



Staff Report to Council - for Direction

Title: Authorization to Sign Contribution Agreement - Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada

From: Aaron Stauch, Director Government Relations

Date: March 20, 2025

Report Number: GR-2025-007

Staff Recommendation:

That Council authorize the Director of Government Relations and the Director of Corporate Services to enter into an Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) Contribution Agreement (CA).

Report Summary:

Bruce County, after submitting a proposal, negotiated an agreement with IRCC to provide funding for the next three years of the Grey Bruce Local Immigration Partnership.

Staff are seeking authorization to enter into the Contribution agreement to execute this funding starting April 1, 2025.

Background/Analysis:

The Grey Bruce Local Immigration Partnership (GBLIP) was established in early 2020, following a successful application to IRCC. A five-year agreement was entered to operate the program, with all direct activities funded 100% by IRCC. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was approved by County Council outlining the collaborative relationship between Grey and Bruce Counties to deliver the program. While both counties were involved in the partnership, Grey County served as the lead organization responsible for managing the agreement. This agreement is set to expire on March 31, 2025.

In late 2024, IRCC issued a Call for Proposals inviting organizations to apply for continued funding to operate LIPs and other settlement-related services. In response, Bruce and Grey Counties collaborated to apply to continue the GBLIP for another term, proposing that Bruce County take on the role of lead organization while maintaining its partnership with Grey County.

Funding and Agreement Changes

In early 2025, the County received notification that IRCC was interested in funding the continuation of the program. This Conditional approval provided the County with funding amounts for the continued operation of the GBLIP. The negotiations process did introduce a

number of changes, not originally outlined in the Call for Proposals, that impact program delivery and administration:

- **Funding Reduction:** The financial commitment from IRCC has been reduced, limiting the scope of program activities. Funding limits have also been imposed in key areas such as wages, travel, honorariums, meeting expenses, and publicity. These limits were met appropriately through the negotiations.
- **Shortened Agreement Term:** Instead of a five-year agreement, the new funding arrangement is for a three-year period.
- **New Requirements:** IRCC is mandating that host organizations develop and implement an anti-racism action plan within the first six months of the agreement. This will be completed through the Equity and Diversity work currently being undertaken within Human Resources.
- **Contribution Agreement Model:** The negotiations require the program to operate under a contribution agreement rather than a grant. As Bruce County is considered a first-time applicant under this new structure, the reporting and administrative requirements will be higher.

Once signed staff will work to update the Memorandum of Understanding between Bruce and Grey County for the delivery of this program. This will be brought back to a future meeting.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

The agreement represents \$1,177,266 over the three-year period for operations of the Grey Bruce Local Immigration Partnership.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

Human Resources and Finance both provided support through negotiations related to this agreement.

Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:

Community and Partnerships - Enhance and grow partnerships

Link to Departmental Plan Goals and Objectives, if any:

N/A

Report Author:

Jeffrey Loney, Economic Development Manager

Departmental Approval:

Aaron Stauch, Director of Government Relations

Approved for Submission:

Christine MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

N/A