Corporation of the County of Bruce  
Planning and Development

Committee Report

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

From:  Kara Van Myall  
Director of Planning and Development

Date:  May 16, 2019

Re:  Economic Development Council of Ontario Bright Ideas Competition

Recommendation:

The Economic Development Council of Ontario (EDCO) Bright Ideas Competition report is for information.

Background:

The Economic Developers Council of Ontario (EDCO) officially launched the “EDCO Bright Ideas Competition” in January of this year at the 62nd Annual Conference and Showcase in Toronto. According to EDCO, this competition is an opportunity for “Ontario’s best and brightest economic development professionals and emerging leaders” to solve economic development’s biggest challenges and learn from colleagues across the province.

The first “EDCO Bright Ideas Competition” has accepted 18 participants from across Ontario to take part, including two of Bruce County’s Economic Development staff members; Paul McGrath, Project Coordinator, and Jessie Fullerton, Information Assistant. These individuals will work as a team to examine local economic development issues and explore innovative solutions.

The 2019 Bright Idea Competition topics are based on the following current trends facing the industry. They include:

- How to create progressive downtowns through retail revitalization.
- Innovation advancement for the municipal sector.
- The cannabis Industry in communities.

Teams will be compiling a comprehensive report on their assigned topic, creating a summarizing presentation and creatively describing their ideas in a 10-minute video. The “Bright Ideas” will be presented and judged at EDCO’s 63rd Annual Conference and Showcase in Toronto in January 2020.
Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:
There are no financial, staffing, legal or IT considerations associated with this report.

Interdepartmental Consultation:
None.

Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:
Goal # 4 - Find creative ways to involve all staff in our future
Goal # 6 - Explore alternative options to improve efficiency and service
Goal # 7 - Stimulate and reward innovation and economic development

Written by: Vicki Ly, Economic Development Officer, Planning and Development

Approved by:

Murray Clarke
Acting Chief Administrative Officer