

## **COMMUNICATION 131142**

Received From: Diane Smithson, Chief Administrative Officer  
Addressed To: Committee of the Whole  
Date: November 24, 2020  
Topic: Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream – Local Government Intake

### **SUMMARY**

The COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure intake under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) was recently announced by the Province of Ontario. This is a \$250 million infrastructure funding program focussing on public infrastructure, defined as tangible capital assets, including temporary infrastructure related to pandemic response, primarily for public use and/or benefit. The deadline for applications under the program is December 21, 2021.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) is a federal program designed to create long-term economic growth, build inclusive, sustainable and resilient communities and to support a low-carbon economy. Initially ICIP included four (4) streams as follows:

- Rural and Northern Infrastructure Fund
- Public Transit Fund
- Community, Culture and Recreation Fund
- Green Fund

To address the challenges faced by communities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ICIP now includes the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure stream (COVID Stream), which is designed to deliver more infrastructure projects during the pandemic by increasing the types of eligible projects and accelerating project approvals and timelines. The expanded program takes steps to address the current health crisis and support economic stability with existing funds and programs. It is important to note that funding for the new stream is to be drawn from existing funding streams. Ontario is re-allocating funding under the ICIP Green stream to support this important initiative.

Under the COVID Stream, the Town has been allocated \$160,376.

### **COMMENT**

The ICIP is a \$30 billion infrastructure fund providing funding to municipal governments and indigenous communities with a population less than 100,000 of which there are about 500. The deadline for the COVID stream for a single application is December 21, 2020 for municipalities who receive \$100,001 to a maximum of \$500,000 and we are able to submit up to two (2) projects for consideration under this program. Projects must be completed prior to December 31, 2021.

The timing under the program includes the following:

1. Application deadline for a single application is December 21, 2021

2. Province will review applications on a rolling basis and will notify applications if their project has been selected for nomination to the federal government for review and approval – **Winter/Spring 2021 (estimated)**
3. Applicants will be notified of the federal funding decision in **Spring 2021 (estimated)**
4. Construction on projects must commence before **September 30, 2021**
5. Projects must be substantially completed by **December 31, 2021**

To be eligible for the Local Government COVID Intake, projects must comply with a project category and asset type:

**Category 1: Retrofits, Repairs and Upgrades** for municipal buildings

**Category 2: COVID-19 Response Infrastructure**, including building or modifying infrastructure to support physical distancing, safety retrofits and expansions

**Category 3: Active Transportation Infrastructure**, including parks and trails, foot bridges, bike lanes and multi-use paths; and

**Category 4: Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation**, including natural infrastructure, flood and fire mitigation, tree planting and related infrastructure

The levels of funding available from the two levels of government are as follows:

- The federal government will provide 80% funding of \$160,376 or \$128,300.80;
- the provincial share is 20% of \$160,376 or \$32,075.20;

Note: The Town does not have to contribute to the project cost unless the amount of the project exceeds the Town's allocation of \$160,376.

After reviewing both the program guidelines, and taking into account capital works that could be completed in 2021 by the deadline imposed by the program, Staff believes that the best project to apply for funding for is the repointing work on the north and west side of the Town Hall. This project would fall under Category 1: retrofits, repairs and upgrades outlined in the program guide.

Applications will be accepted through the Grants Ontario website which is a "one-window" source for applicants, handling application intake, review, nomination, reporting and transfer payment management processes all in one place.

The repointing works are an ideal project to apply for as they fall within the project parameters, are sufficient to utilize the entire allocation set aside for the Town under the program and the works must be completed in 2021 prior to the Central Bridge repairs being commenced in 2022.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The estimated cost of the masonry repairs of the north and west side of the Town Hall for 2021 is \$230,000. If the application is successful, the Town would receive 80% federal funding of a capped grant amount of \$160,376.00 or \$128,300.80 and 20%

provincial funding or \$32,075.20 towards the project leaving a balance of \$69,624 to be paid by the Town from the building reserve.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council authorize staff applying for the exterior repointing repairs on the north and west side of the Town Hall as the Town's priority under the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream – Local Government Intake of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.