

REPORT

Oakville Public Library Board

Meeting Date: December 8, 2022

FROM: Oakville Public Library

DATE: November 29, 2022

SUBJECT: Halton Information Providers Q4 2022 Update

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Halton Information Providers (HIP) Q4 2022 Update be received for information.

KEY FACTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- The HIP executive team, represented by library/community leadership throughout Halton, has extended HIP's strategic plan for one additional year to complete the initiatives that were delayed by the pandemic.
- The Halton Newcomer Information PODs have been deployed across Halton.
- HIP's server and website partner, KCL, has an expiring contact with the Town of Oakville. This contact entails the server that hosts the Halton Community Services Directory, and several other projects. The contract currently expires in October 2023. The search has begun for a new server provider.
- Halton Information Providers' Media Kit is now available.
- The Information Oakville Virtual Community Board is now live.

BACKGROUND:

Information and referral agencies, like HIP, play a critical role in local communities and on a regional, provincial, and national level. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020, the information and referral sector has been highlighted as a critical service in disaster relief planning and community crisis management. As traditional forms of communication fade, content and information can now be created virtually anywhere by nearly everyone and accessed almost instantly around the world. Nonetheless, individuals continue to turn to local, referred, or verified sources. Local directories, including Halton Information Providers, continue to be a

valuable means of providing community resources, specialists, and crisis call centres for those in need.

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

A presentation (Appendix A) will provide an update to the board on HIP and Information Oakville's community development and engagement activities.

APPENDICES:

Appendix A – HIP Q4 2022 Update

Prepared by:

Marcus Logan, Manager - Community Development & Engagement

Submitted by:

Joseph Moncada, Director - Innovation & Integration