

REPORT

Council

Meeting Date: February 27, 2023

FROM: Strategy, Policy and Communications Department

DATE: February 14, 2023

SUBJECT: **OakvilleReady: Progress and Financial Directions Report**

LOCATION: Town Hall

WARD: Town-wide

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RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the “OakvilleReady: Progress and Financial Directions Report” from the Strategy, Policy and Communications department be received.
2. That a second payment of \$10,000 to the Halton Environmental Network (HEN) for the delivery of the OakvilleReady program that supports community-wide climate change resiliency be approved.
3. That the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) be authorized to make future decisions regarding this annual funding request, as long as the amount does not exceed \$10,000 and the funds are provided for in the Climate Action operating budget.

KEY FACTS:

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

- The town and HEN launched the OakvilleReady program in September 2019 with funding from the Oakville Community Foundation (OCF);
- The OakvilleReady program uses faith and community organizations to increase climate change education, preparedness and resilience within the community and is supported by the town and regional emergency management departments;
- There are now nine OakvilleReady locations participating in climate education, preparedness and resiliency projects year-round and that are prepared to help community members in the event of localized flooding, power outages, winter storms and other climate-related emergencies;

- In June 2021, Council approved an MOU, attached as Appendix A, between the town and HEN for the delivery of this program as well as a contribution of \$10,000 to HEN to help deliver this program from June 2021 – June 2022. Appendix B of this report details those accomplishments; and that
- OakvilleReady has recently been awarded \$57,190 in funding from the Community Foundation of Canada (CFC) dedicated to the implementation of projects that increase the community's resiliency to flooding, extreme temperatures and high wind and greenhouse gas reductions.

BACKGROUND:

The OakvilleReady program was launched in 2019 with funding from the Oakville Community Foundation in collaboration with the town and HEN. The intent of the program was to establish climate resiliency hubs throughout Oakville using faith and community-based organizations and their facilities. Within the first year of the program being launched, OakvilleReady welcomed 7 hubs and has since welcomed 2 more. These locations include The Church of Incarnation, Kerr Street Ministries, St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church, Knox Presbyterian, St. Paul's United, Shaarei Beth-El, Maple Grove United, Forestview Church without Walls and the Oak Park Neighbourhood Centre.

OakvilleReady is supported by both the town (via funding and in-kind support) and regional emergency management (EM) departments who provide ongoing expertise, education and are incorporating OakvilleReady as a component of EM mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery plans and projects. The OakvilleReady program helps to alleviate emergency services by helping to prepare the community year-round and in response to an emergency as directed by the town's Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC). Each OakvilleReady hub is prepared to aid community members during the first 72 hours of an emergency when emergency personnel and resources are otherwise occupied. Emergency Management Ontario recommends all individuals and households be prepared, in other words, be self sufficient with food, medications, drinking water and several other recommended items for the first 72 hours of any emergency. To date, this program has not needed to be utilised in response to a climate emergency, but it has accomplished several actions to increase community preparedness and resiliency. These actions include but are not limited to hosting food drives and planting fruit trees and vegetable gardens to improve local food security, providing wellness checks, webinars and virtual conversations during COVID to keep the community connected, and by providing enhanced climate change and emergency preparedness education through targeted community outreach.

In June of 2021, Council approved an MOU, Appendix A, between HEN and the town that outlines member roles and responsibilities, program deliverables and the

financial request of \$10,000 from the Climate Action department's operational budget to HEN. This initial request was approved, the money was received by HEN and allocated to the deliverables describes below.

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

Since the approval of the MOU and the related \$10 000 contribution to HEN in June of 2021 Oakville Ready has made significant progress. The MOU defines ten deliverables, listed below. Details on the progress made regarding each of the ten deliverables can be found within Appendix B.

1. Enhanced understanding of community risks and vulnerabilities related to climate change through assessments and mapping;
2. Enhance communications via social media, outreach and networking;
3. Year-round delivery of climate change outreach and education on social media, presentations, workshops and during September welcoming events, Earth Week and Emergency Preparedness Week;
4. To commence the development of the community climate adaptation strategy with OakvilleReady hub leaders acting as community stakeholders;
5. To secure funding for the ongoing delivery and expansion of the OakvilleReady program;
6. Support for climate mitigation and adaptation projects such as Depave Paradise, energy efficiency upgrades, food security and pollinator gardens;
7. A more prepared and resilient community;
8. Understanding of how the pilot can be scaled to other municipalities;
9. Understanding of how the pilot can be scaled to include other, non-climate related emergencies; and,
10. Feedback on experience (challenges, benefits, and outcomes) to be shared in, for example, public reports and presentations.

It is requested that Council approve a second payment of \$10,000 to the Halton Environmental Network (HEN) for the delivery of the OakvilleReady program that supports community-wide climate change preparedness and resiliency; and, that the CAO be given permission to make future decisions regarding this annual funding request, as long as the amount does not exceed \$10,000 and the funds are provided for in the Climate Action operational budget. It should also be noted that future updates on the OakvilleReady program will become a component of the Climate Action team's annual reporting, rather than a standalone report.

CONSIDERATIONS:**(A) PUBLIC**

The OakvilleReady: Progress and Financial Directions Report provides transparency and accountability to the public by providing an update on how

the OakvilleReady dedicated funds have been utilized to educate, prepare and help the community recover from climate related emergencies.

(B) FINANCIAL

In addition to this report providing information about the 2023 funding from CCF, it includes the request for \$10,000 be provided through the town's Climate Action operational budget to the HEN for the help in delivering the OakvilleReady program throughout 2023.

(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS

The OakvilleReady program is closely tied to the town's emergency management program housed within Oakville Fire. Departments will support the delivery of the OakvilleReady program, as needed, on the planned initiatives.

(D) CORPORATE STRATEGIC GOALS

This report addresses the corporate strategic goal(s) of:
Environmentally sustainable practices and Accountable Government.

(E) CLIMATE CHANGE/ACTION

This report directly supports Climate Action through community resilience and emergency preparedness and response.

APPENDICES:

Appendix A – Memo of Understanding

Appendix B – MOU Deliverables

Prepared by:

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Recommended by:

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Submitted by:

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