



December 5, 2011

City Council Committee Report

To: Mayor Canfield & Council

Fr: Heather Kasprick, Deputy Clerk

Re: Northern Communities Investment Readiness (NCIR) Grant Applications

Recommendation:

Whereas the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines has grant funding available through the Northern Communities Investment Readiness Program (NCIR); and

Whereas our Economic Development Officer has identified three essential projects that would fit under this funding program; and

Whereas Project Number One is identified as an In-Bound Site Visit with a potential investor with NCIR funds requested in the amount of \$6,780.18 with a contribution from the City in the amount of \$2,260.06 for total project financing of \$9,040.24; and

Whereas Project Number Two is identified as a Value Added Forestry Profile with NCIR funds requested in the amount of \$7,500 with a contribution from the City in the amount of \$2,500 for a total project financing of \$10,000; and

Whereas Project Number Three is identified as a Community Profile with NCIR funds requested in the amount of \$7,500 with a contribution from the City in the amount of \$2,500 for a total project financing of \$10,000;

Now therefore, let it be resolved that authorization be given for the Corporation of the City of Kenora to apply for funding under the Northern Communities Investment Readiness (NCIR) Program intended for these three programs.

Background:

Jennifer Findlay, Economic Development Officer has identified three projects that we could potentially receive funding for through the Northern Communities Investment Readiness program.

Three separate applications have been completed, signed and are ready for submission, however, the applications do require Council support. Under section 4.2 of the grant application, a municipal council resolution is required that demonstrate Council support for these projects.

Project number one is funding for an in-bound site visit for a potential value added investor that would come to Kenora to further explore their investment opportunity here. The investors have been to Kenora several times and are now in the process of narrowing down its options. This site visit is critical in confirming definitively why the City of Kenora is the best site for the company. Total costs would be \$9,040.24 with the City's contribution of \$2,260.06 and NCIR funding request of \$6,780.18.

Project number two will produce a value added forestry sector profile for Kenora and the area which will be used as a tool for Kenora and the area to attract receive and successfully entertain value added forestry investment opportunities. The Value Added Forestry Sector Profile will provide Kenora and area with key targeted investment opportunity research and create a sector profile for use by site selectors and businesses interested in re-locating or expanding their business to Kenora. Total costs of this project would be \$10,000 with the City's contribution of \$2,500 and NCIR funding request of \$7,500.

Project number three will enable the City to hire a consulting firm to provide the profile information and research tool which will update the information on a regular basis. The project will provide Kenora with critical, baseline data and information on which to build its community profile. The information will be used to help develop a better understanding of the current community demographics and business composition to provide to interested site selectors and businesses considering Kenora as a business location. The information can also be used to educate and update the local business, political, education and training and economic development community to ensure that key community stakeholders have a comprehensive understanding of Kenora and area. Information such as education levels and skill sets of the local labour force will help training and education providers develop targeted and appropriate programs to improve Kenora's workforce education levels and skills to further enhance Kenora's ability to attract new businesses and create jobs in the community. Total costs of this project would be \$10,000 with the City's contribution of \$2,500 and NCIR funding request of \$7,500.

Budget: N/A – applications only

Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements: As these are only applications at this time, no by-law is required.