

Government of Saskatchewan Targeted Sector Support (TSS) - Support for funding application

Date	February 26, 2020
To	City Council
From	Mayor's Office
Service Area	Office of the Mayor
Item No.	MR20-1

RECOMMENDATION

That City Council:

1. Support the hosting of an Economic Development Forum in Regina, May 28-29, 2020 bringing together regional stakeholders, the Municipalities Association of Saskatchewan (MAS), the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) and Indigenous leadership to discuss roles and responsibilities for creating, attracting and better preparing communities for regional economic development opportunities.
2. Direct Administration to submit the funding application through the Government of Saskatchewan's Targeted Sector Support Program.
3. Subject to approval of funding assistance from the Targeted Sector Support Program, direct Administration to work with the Regional Economic Development and Cooperation Committee (REDAC) to organize and deliver the May 2020 Economic Development Forum on the condition that any projected shortfall in required funding be recovered either through registration fees or cost-shared among REDAC members and other participating partners.

ISSUE

REDAC is planning this Forum to lay the groundwork for a provincial economic development framework and governance strategy to ensure Saskatchewan's communities – urban, rural and

Indigenous – have a competitive advantage and are positioned to attract local, national international business opportunities by offering a coordinated, consistent attraction and retention strategy.

IMPACTS

Policy/Strategic Impact

The objectives of the Forum include:

- Better equipping communities for inter-municipal economic development;
- Creating the foundation for better cooperation and collaboration in terms of short and long-term planning priorities for communities;
- Eliminating silos and identifying synergies that align with the goals and outcomes of government, private sector industry, rural, urban and Indigenous leaders and other stakeholders;
- Seeing opportunities and sharing information on current economic development strategies, best practices and experiences of successful community partnerships; and
- Creating the foundational work required for the provincial economic development framework and governance strategy.

Financial

Funding assistance of 75%, up to a maximum of \$75,000 is being sought from the Government of Saskatchewan's Targeted Sector Support program.

The estimated total cost of the Forum is estimated at \$100,000. The projected funding requirement of \$25,000 will be recovered through registration fees, with any remaining deficit cost-shared among REDAC members and other participating partners.

There are no accessibility, risk/legal impacts or other implications or considerations related to this report.

OTHER OPTIONS

If a decision is made to not seek funding assistance, the proposed Economic Development Forum will not proceed.

COMMUNICATIONS

The REDAC Committee will draft and share a communications strategy among its members and partners and with the public to advertise and promote the Forum.

DISCUSSION

At the October 2018 Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) City Mayors' Caucus meeting (CMC), the Regional Economic Development and Cooperation (REDAC) Committee was created. The Committee is comprised of:

- Mayor Michael Fougere, Regina, Chair
- Mayor Fraser Tolmie, Moose Jaw, Vice-chair
- Representatives from the cities of Saskatoon, Warman and North Battleford
- Municipalities of Saskatchewan
- Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM)

The outcomes from the Forum's dialogue, perspectives, sessions and keynote speakers will inform and set the stage for the development of a provincial framework and governance model for economic development in Saskatchewan

DECISION HISTORY

The recommendation contained within this report requires City Council approval.

Respectfully submitted,



Sheila Harmatiuk
Chief of Staff to the Mayor

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Fougere
Mayor

Prepared by: Sheila Harmatiuk, Chief of Staff to Mayor Fougere