



GEORGINA

Subject: The Trades and Training Centre (GTTI) – Skilled Trades Institute Program Update

To: Mayor and Council

From: Karyn Stone, Manager of Economic Development and Tourism
Rob Wheater, Director of Corporate Services and Treasurer

Date: November 17 2021

Briefing:

On June 24, 2020 Council adopted the following **RESOLUTION NO. C-2020- 0182:**

1. That Council receive Report No. CAO-2020-0008 prepared by the Economic Development and Tourism Division, Development Services Department and Corporate Services Department dated June 24, 2020 respecting The Georgina Training Centre's (GTTI) request for funding to facilitate the development of a Skilled Trades Institute at 1614 Metro Road North.
2. That Council approve the request for funding by The Georgina Training Centre (GTTI) in the amount 2.6 million dollars to facilitate the construction of the Skilled Trades Institute and lease of Town-owned lands located at 1614 Metro Road North.
3. That Council delegate approval authority to the Chief Administrative Officer or his delegate for any approvals that are required for the subject property including site plan approval, and to provide any authorizations to obtain required permits from external agencies, and that the planning approval be subject to a satisfactory lease agreement and legal agreements.
4. That a briefing note be provided to Council highlighting the details of any required legal agreements.
5. That the GTTI be required to provide an annual work plan and a semi-annual update to Council for information.

The funding approved by Council was to construct a facility at 1614 Metro Road North from which to operate the Skilled Trades Institute. The initial programming at the new facility would consist of an accelerated 26 week program that would expose students to a variety of skilled trades. The Institute had intended to become financially sustainable through the construction and sale of affordable housing units.

In preparation for the building of the proposed facility a site plan application was submitted to the Town to facilitate the development of the site at 1614 Metro Road North. The site plan application was submitted by Robert Stierner Engineering who had been retained in 2020 by GTTI to prepare all of the background studies and site plan and servicing drawings required to proceed with construction. The site plan application was processed but did not receive final approval and as a result of the challenges, GTTI requested that the application be placed on hold.

Despite the challenges of the COVID pandemic including lumber prices, supply chains shortages and the absence of a dedicated facility, the Skilled Trades Institute programming commenced in January 2021 at an alternate location with Cohort 1 consisting of 99 students. These students participated in 26 weeks of practical instruction and soft skills training and to date 80% of the graduates are now employed in their chosen field. Cohort 2 consisting of 96 students will be completing the 26 week program at the end of December 2021 in space leased at the Kin Hall, GTTI and the Salvation Army Divisional Camp. Cohort 2 students will be supported in their search for employment into Q1 of 2022.

Given the challenges of the COVID Pandemic and in discussions with the Skilled Trades Institute sub-committee over the past few weeks it has become apparent that GTTI would not be able to continue the Skilled Trades Institute as originally contemplated and GTTI would need to revise the Skilled Trades Institute programming model and associated business plan. In this regard, Resolution C-2020-0182 is no longer applicable and it is important to note that the funding agreement between the Town and GTTI was not executed.

The Town has agreed to provide a loan to GTTI in the amount of \$158,528.87 to pay the outstanding engineering invoices incurred by GTTI in the preparation of the studies and research required to submit the site plan application for development at 1614 Metro Road North. This payment is subject to a loan agreement indicating that GTTI will repay the Loan over a 15 year period with 2.5% interest rate. The Town's Solicitor has prepared the loan agreement and has confirmed that there is no requirement to formally revoke Resolution C-2020-0182 as GTTI, through the execution of the loan agreement, has confirmed that it did not meet the conditions to obtain the previously available funding of 2.6 million dollars.