



Subject: Physician Recruitment Activities Update

To: Council

From: Chief Administrative Office

Report Number: 2022-17

Meeting Date: March 8, 2022

Recommendation:

That Chief Administrative Office Report 2022-17 be received for information.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Council on Physician Recruitment within the Region and for the City of Port Colborne.

Background:

Since January 2021, as directed by the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), the City's Economic Development Officer (EDO) has been tasked with managing the Physician Recruitment file and related outreach and partnerships. The Port Colborne Health Services Committee has not met since March 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. During this time, the CAO and EDO have been ensuring that the important work on this file continues.

Discussion:

The City's EDO has been attending the Regional Physician Recruitment Committee meetings led by Jill Croteau who is the Physician Recruitment and Retention Coordinator for Niagara Region. These meetings are attended by Economic Development Officers from other Niagara municipalities.

Port Colborne's CAO and EDO have regular meetings with Ms. Croteau as part of the City's Family Physician Incentive Agreement with the Niagara Region regarding the provision of Family Physician Recruitment services.

The City sponsored the McMaster DeGroot School of Medicine Student Welcome Event in August 2021 and provided welcome packages to 28 incoming students to Niagara on Oct 27th. The City is in discussions with the Region to support additional events in 2022. The City has been fortunate to have attracted Dr. Matthew Vandenberg to the City. Dr. Vandenberg was introduced to Council and the City on August 23, 2021, and through a media release. Dr. Vandenberg commenced his family medicine practice on September 7, 2021.

In December 2021, an offer was made to an interested family physician who is planning to set-up practice in the City for the Fall of 2022 and a formal announcement and introduction to Council will happen in the second quarter of 2022.

To benefit the Port Colborne community, the City continues to provide funding for recruitment of family physicians, establishing family medicine practices, acquiring equipment and complementary expenses. Mapleview Medical Clinic was a recipient for an update to medical equipment this year.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications to this report. Currently, the City budgets \$4,000 annually for Port Colborne related physician recruitment activities to supplement the full-time work of Niagara Region's Physician Recruitment Coordinator.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

The initiative contained within this report supports the following pillar(s) of the strategic plan:

- Attracting Business Investment and Tourists to Port Colborne
- People: Supporting and Investing in Human Capital

Conclusion:

Economically vibrant communities where citizens can live, work and play are healthy communities and physician recruitment is an important part of the economic development mix of successful communities. The City of Port Colborne continues to work with Niagara Region's Physician Recruitment & Retention Coordinator and

neighbouring municipalities on joint initiatives to support this process and also unique singular City initiatives to support the goals and objectives of this program.

Appendices:

- a. Presentation - Jill Croteau CHRL, Physician Recruitment & Retention Coordinator, Regional Health Initiatives, Niagara Region Public Health

Respectfully submitted,

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Report Approval:

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final review and approval by the Chief Administrative Officer.