



## Council report

<b>Meeting date:</b>	September 15, 2020
<b>Title:</b>	Rural Economic Development (RED) grant update
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Kodey Hewlett, Recreation Supervisor / Lindsey Glazier, Administrative Assistant, Clerks Office
<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Laura Johnston, CAO/Deputy Clerk

### Recommendation

That report Rural Economic Development (RED) grant update be received for information; and  
That the Council of The Municipality of West Grey hereby schedules a virtual joint council meeting with Grey Highlands on September 28<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m.

### Executive summary

The Province recently announced that The Municipality of West Grey and The Municipality of Grey Highlands was successful in the joint application for the Rural Economic Development (RED) grant. The municipalities, in partnership with Georgian College, Social Enterprise Network of Central Ontario (SENCO) institute are developing a program that will provide social entrepreneurs and businesses with mentorship opportunities from municipal staff, to gain the knowledge, tools and capacity to create, retain or transition towards social enterprise models.

### Background and Discussion

The successful grant application for \$23,000 will assist in funding the two year project. West Grey and Grey Highlands staff have been working on this joint venture in partnership with SENCO to prepare the launch of the program within the municipalities. Recently staff have undertaken training through the (SENCO) in partnership with Georgian college to gain the tools necessary to equip staff with the tools and knowledge to support social entrepreneurs and businesses in retaining or transition towards social enterprise models that will better their communities and promote economic development in their respective municipalities.

Staff from both municipalities have been meeting to prepare the launch event and an education session for their respective councils to be presented at a virtual joint council meeting with Grey Highlands. The joint council meeting, upon approval by both councils, is to take place on September 28, 2020 at 3 p.m. The Municipality of West Grey will host this joint meeting, fulfilling chair and administrative duties. The launch event that will screen The Social Shift Documentary will take place in West Grey at the Hanover Drive-in Theater at 7:30 p.m. on September 28, 2020.



September 15, 2020 (2)

## Legal and legislated requirements

Rural Economic Development program agreement provisions.

## Financial and resource implications

None.

## Staffing implications

Staff are taking place in joint training with Grey Highlands and will be assisting in planning and running training events to follow.

## Consultation

Grey Highlands

## Alignment to strategic vision plan

Pillar: Work together

Goal: Build partnerships

Strategy: Leverage partnerships with neighbouring municipalities

## Attachments

None.

## Next steps

Special virtual joint council meeting with Grey Highlands council.

Respectfully submitted:

Kodey Hewlett, Recreation Supervisor

Lindsey Glazier, Administrative Assistant, Clerk's Office