



REPORT

REPORT TO: Mayor Rick Bonnette and Members of Council

REPORT FROM: Jane Diamanti, Director of Libraries
Geoff Cannon, Manager of Library Public Services

DATE: September 11, 2009

REPORT NO.: LIB-2009-0009

RE: Acton Library Infrastructure Stimulus Fund (ISF) Contribution Agreement

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. LIB-2009-0009, dated September 11, 2009, regarding Acton Library Infrastructure Stimulus Fund Contribution (ISF) Agreement, be received;

AND FURTHER THAT the appropriate by-law be prepared to enable the Mayor and CAO to execute the required documents to enter into the agreement;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this report without Confidential Solution Attachment #1, the execution by-law, the signed agreements, and all other required documents, be sent to the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).

BACKGROUND:

In April 2009, Council authorized staff to submit three applications for the Federal and Provincial Infrastructure Stimulus Fund Program of which one was the Acton Branch Library Replacement. This application was successful and staff are proceeding with the initial phases of project planning to have this building completed by the stipulated March 2011 deadline.

The Infrastructure Stimulus Fund is being managed by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). On August 26, 2009, OMAFRA sent the Town of Halton Hills copies of the Funding Agreement for the Acton Branch Library Replacement project. These agreements are to be executed with the Town by September 25, 2009.

COMMENTS:

The Acton Branch Library, built in 1967 as a Centennial project, has among its existing deficiencies, a lack of access for those with mobility challenges, limited parking and insufficient space for the population now served. The current facility is approximately 3,700 square feet. In accordance with the minimum industry standard of .6 square feet per capita, the Acton Branch should be 7,800 square feet for the existing service area population and 9,000 square feet to adequately serve the projected population to 2021 with modern day library practices and programs. In addition to the severe space shortage, the most pressing issue is the lack of access for persons with wheelchairs, and impeded access for those with walking aids, strollers, etc. The Accessibility Audit Report concluded that the Acton Branch cannot be made accessible without a significant capital investment.

With a proper Acton Branch, the Town can offer universal access for people of all ages and abilities, more materials in a wider variety of formats, additional Internet stations, increased space for study and quiet reading, and provide an enlarged and properly appointed programming space, which can also be used by the community at large. The space can also be used for external partners such as Literacy North Halton, the Region of Halton and others. More parking conveniently located near to the Library will also be well received. And finally, the replacement facility will be a more energy efficient and sustainable facility.

The Town, therefore, applied to the ISF for the funding required to design and construct the replacement of the existing Acton Branch Library.

The total project cost is \$3.5 million, with provincial, federal and municipal shares of the work equally calculated at \$1.17 million each party. .

The agreement has been reviewed by the Town solicitor and his comments have been appended to this report (See Appendix I)

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

This report is an operational issue

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The agreement outlines that two-thirds of the total (\$3.5 million) will be recovered from the Provincial and Federal governments.

COMMUNICATIONS IMPACT:

There is no formal communications required for this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

There is no environmental impact associated with this report.

CONSULTATION:

Town Solicitor, Staff from Library Services and Town CAO were consulted regarding the agreement.

CONCLUSION:

Staff is recommending that the appropriate by-law be prepared and passed to enable the Mayor and Clerk to execute the required documents to enter into the ISF Agreement.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Diamanti
Director of Libraries

Dennis Y. Perlin
Chief Administrative Officer

Geoff Cannon
Manager of Library Public Services