



## The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Fire & Rescue Services

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council

**From:** Wade Bondy, Director Fire Services & Fire Chief

**Date to Council:** May 12, 2020

**Report Number:** FIRE-2020-02

**Subject:** Flooding Preparedness – Canadian Red Cross Service Agreement

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### Recommendations

It is recommended:

**That** By-Law 2020-39 authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to execute an agreement with The Canadian Red Cross Society for provision of emergency response services during an emergency within the Town of Tecumseh **be adopted**.

**And that** the Fire Chief's report FIRE-2020-02 regarding the Flooding Preparedness – Canadian Red Cross Service Agreement **be received**.

### Background

At its special meeting held April 16, 2020, Council received report FIRE-2020-05 titled "Amendment to the Town of Tecumseh Flood Response Plan" that detailed modifications to the plans for an emergency shelter / reception center due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of the revised flood emergency plans, registration of evacuees would be completed virtually, either online or via telephone. This registration method would eliminate the need for evacuees to physically attend a registration centre, leading to increased safety for both staff and evacuees and is in accordance with current Public Health Ontario recommendations related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Comments

The Canadian Red Cross Society (Red Cross) is able to provide registration services for evacuees through telephone or online means, making a central point of contact for evacuees

and their families. In addition, they are able to provide supplies such as cots and personal hygiene kits for evacuees if required. At this time during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Red Cross has indicated that all of their services would be provided virtually; there will be no on-site support. The scope of services that would be provided is detailed in the agreement.

A County wide agreement is being negotiated with the Red Cross for the provision of support services during emergencies. The current high lake levels and increasing risk of flooding in the Town make securing a provider for these services a high priority. The agreement being recommended by this report would serve as an interim agreement to secure these services until the County wide agreement (currently under negotiation) has been executed. The agreement would not be signed until such time as the services are required however Council approval is being sought by this report to expedite same.

As no formal reception center or temporary shelter would be set up, a location would still be required for evacuees to obtain information related to hotel and transportation options or other information related to the emergency. In addition, evacuees that have been assisted in evacuation by Fire Services or Town staff and are awaiting transportation to their temporary housing location would need a safe place to wait.

In order to provide these services, Town staff would establish an information / transfer center that would be staffed by Town personnel. This information / transfer center would not be intended to house evacuees long-term, but only during the time prior to their transportation elsewhere. In keeping with Public Health Ontario recommendations, social distancing and other protective measures, such as requiring evacuees to wear masks and disinfect their hands, would be required at the center. Administration is in the process of planning for such a center.

## **Consultations**

Parks & Recreation Services  
Financial Services

## **Financial Implications**

The Town would be responsible for costs associated with Red Cross services during an emergency under this agreement. The total costs would be dependant on the use of the services during an emergency.

The 2020 approved budget does not include an allocation for costs of this nature. Any costs incurred will be charged to the Emergency Measures operating budget and will result in an unfavourable budget variance (or deficit).

Operating budget deficits are typically funded through the Town's Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve. Should disaster recovery funding assistance be available, any amounts recoverable will credit the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve.

## Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2019-22 Strategic Priorities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Make the Town of Tecumseh an even better place to live, work and invest through a shared vision for our residents and newcomers.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure that Tecumseh's current and future growth is built upon the principles of sustainability and strategic decision-making.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Integrate the principles of health and wellness into all of Tecumseh's plans and priorities.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Steward the Town's "continuous improvement" approach to municipal service delivery to residents and businesses.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Demonstrate the Town's leadership role in the community by promoting good governance and community engagement, by bringing together organizations serving the Town and the region to pursue common goals.

## Communications

Not applicable ☒

Website ☐

Social Media ☐

News Release ☐

Local Newspaper ☐

This report has been reviewed by Senior Administration as indicated below and recommended for submission by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Prepared by:

Wade Bondy  
Director Fire Services & Fire Chief, C.E.M.C.

Reviewed by:

Paul Anthony, RRFA  
Director Parks & Recreation Services

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP  
Chief Administrative Officer

<b>Attachment Number</b>	<b>Attachment Name</b>
None	None