



# The Corporation of The Town of Amherstburg

RECEIVED DEC 10 2019

November 29, 2019

Mayor Gary McNamara  
Town of Tecumseh  
917 Lesperance Road  
Tecumseh, ON N8N 1W9

Re: Municipal Modernization Program

Dear Mayor McNamara,

On November 1, 2019, the Honourable Steven Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing advised that Intake 1 of the Municipal Modernization Program would be available to Municipalities. Under the program the Province is making \$125 million available through 2022 – 2023 to help small municipalities to conduct new service delivery reviews. Further to this announcement Amherstburg's Town Council passed the following resolution at their November 25<sup>th</sup> meeting:

*Administration BE DIRECTED to engage the professional services of a third party consultant, in accordance with the program eligibility requirements, to undertake a municipal service delivery review to address opportunities to achieve cost savings and efficiencies for the Town of Amherstburg and opportunities for shared services with regional municipalities; and,*

*The Mayor send correspondence to regional Mayors seeking participation in the shared services review, in a future Municipal Modernization Program.*

Significant reduction in Provincial grant funding is forcing local government to either reduce levels of service or increase taxation levels in an effort to attain sustainability. As such we are suggesting our region undertake discussions on taking a proactive, collaborative approach on shared services that would benefit the regional as a whole, quite possibly ensuring the viability of our local municipal independence.

Please discuss this with your respective Councils and if in agreement, forward a resolution noting your support of such an initiative.

Together we are stronger,

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aldo DiCarlo', written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Aldo DiCarlo



## THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG

### OFFICE OF THE CAO

**MISSION STATEMENT:** *Committed to delivering cost-effective and efficient services for the residents of the Town of Amherstburg with a view to improve and enhance their quality of life.*

Author's Name: Giovanni (John) Miceli	Report Date: November 21, 2019
Author's Phone: 519 736-0012 ext. 2228	Date to Council: November 25, 2019
Author's E-mail: jmiceli@amherstburg.ca	Resolution #: N/A

To: Mayor and Members of Town Council

Subject: Municipal Modernization Program

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#### 1. **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that:

1. Council **SUPPORT** the submission of the Town of Amherstburg for funding up to the \$200,000 in the Municipal Modernization Program
2. That Administration **BE DIRECTED** to engage the professional services of a third party consultant, in accordance with the program eligibility requirements, to undertake a municipal service delivery review.
3. That the service delivery review **ADDRESS** opportunities to achieve cost savings and efficiencies for the Town of Amherstburg and opportunities for shared services with regional municipalities.
4. The Mayor **SHALL** send correspondence to regional Mayors seeking participation in the shared services review, in a future Municipal Modernization Program.

#### 2. **BACKGROUND:**

On November 1, 2019 the Honourable Steven Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing advised that Intake 1 of the Municipal Modernization Program would be available to Municipalities. Under this program the Province is making \$125 million available through 2022-2023 to help small municipalities (under 100,000 population) to conduct new service delivery reviews.

### **3. DISCUSSION:**

#### **Town of Amherstburg Opportunities:**

Municipalities are operating in a world that is changing at an unprecedented pace. Citizen expectations with respect to service levels continue to rise, areas of municipal responsibility are increasing, demographics are shifting, population is decreasing, infrastructure is aging, and the competition for economic development is growing. This is all occurring and ratepayers are demanding that municipalities limit tax rate increases to unsustainable levels in light of the service levels demands. This was prominent in the discussions during the 2020 budget deliberations and the public budget information meeting held at the Libro Centre. The recently announced Municipal Modernization Program established by the Province, provides the Town an opportunity to conduct a service delivery review by an independent third party to identify opportunities for the Town of Amherstburg to recognize savings and efficiencies. The outcome from such a review would benefit the taxpayers and may assist in reducing or containing cost pressures faced by the municipality. The Expression of Interest for Intake 1 is required to be submitted by December 6, 2019. Should the Town be successful, the project must be completed by the third party no later than June 30, 2020.

#### **Regional Opportunities:**

Change is inevitable at the local level and locally we must move from a competitive mindset to a more collaborative approach regionally if municipalities are going to make the region as a whole successful. The Province has recently announced that there would be no forced amalgamations in light of the recent review undertaken in the GTA. The question however, that we may wish to consider regionally, is how local municipalities garner benefit from the Province's current direction and desire to gain taxpayers savings within the control of local municipal governments.

Should local municipalities be willing to consider an approach that facilitates change that is proactive, creative and collaborative it would appear, on the surface, that this approach would benefit the region as a whole. The Province clearly indicated there would be no forced amalgamations, however, they have also indicated that they would provide municipalities with resources to support local decision making that would drive efficiencies locally. It would not be unreasonable for one to conclude that such cooperation may result in cost savings or improved services, a benefit to all local taxpayers. Continued and expanded collaboration and cooperation of all regional municipalities may also ensure the viability of our local municipal independence. This, however, will require political leadership and concurrence of respective municipal councils in the region. In an effort to engage in such collaboration, it would be prudent for the Town of Amherstburg to initiate such discussion, to gain concurrence from the regional municipal councils to move forward with such an initiative.

### **4. RISK ANALYSIS:**

The current trends and announcements by the Provincial government suggest that grants from the Province will be significantly reduced, forcing municipalities to either reduce levels of service or increase taxation levels in an effort to attain sustainability. A

failure to undertake such reviews in a pro-active manner may result in both political and financial risk to each respective municipality.

**5. FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

There is no financial cost associated with this program if the municipality is successful in obtaining Municipal Modernization Funding.

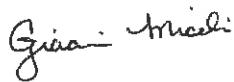
**6. CONSULTATIONS:**

Area CAO's

Tim Ryall, Municipal Advisor Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

**7. CONCLUSION:**

That the Town of Amherstburg move forward with an application for funding in Intake 1 of the Municipal Modernization Program to undertake a service delivery review conducted by a third party consultant.



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Giovanni (John) Miceli  
**Chief Administrative Officer**

**DEPARTMENTS/OTHERS CONSULTED:**

**Name:**

**Phone #:** 519                      **ext.**

**NOTIFICATION :**

Name	Address	Email Address	Telephone	FAX