Recommendation(s)

THAT Report CCR-PCD-02-14 regarding Food Safety Training Curriculum Development be received for information;

AND THAT a Rural Economic Development funding application be submitted by December 31st, 2013.

Background

Grey County, with financial support from Bruce County, has contracted Georgian College for the development and delivery of a customized Food Safety Training for Business Owners program. This training will support the training needs of the many small- and medium-size businesses currently adding value to agricultural products, and those agricultural producers considering a “value add” business expansion.

Georgian College is contracted to deliver this program in Grey-Bruce. Intellectual property rights to the material developed in the curriculum will be shared between Georgian College and Grey County.

This curriculum will include four modules:

1. Understanding the Nature of Food Safety Regulations
2. Understanding Your Food Safety Inspector
3. Understanding Your Role and Responsibilities Regarding Food Safety Regulations
4. An Overview of Food Safety Regulations Impacting Ontario Businesses
Georgian College and Grey County have identified a Steering Committee who will oversee the project and a Stakeholder Advisory Committee who will offer subject expertise and support marketing efforts for this ‘first-of-its-kind’ program.

The program will be designed and developed by a team of subject matter experts with experience designing programs for businesses and expertise in the area of Food Safety, Public Health, Food Processing and Food Regulations.

As the project moves from the design and development phases through to the delivery in Owen Sound, the Georgian Team will evaluate the process in order to make recommendations for potential alternative delivery formats (i.e. online).

Next steps:

• Grey will sign a formal agreement with Georgian as sole signatory and sign an adjunct agreement with Bruce County (a letter of intent has been delivered)
• Advisory committee is being struck; subject matter experts are being identified
• An application for Rural Economic Development (RED) funding is being prepared for the December 31st intake
• An introductory roll-out meeting is scheduled on January 13th, 2014 at Grey Bruce Farmers’ Week in Elmwood
• Survey has been created and will identify preferred delivery methods; will be distributed at meeting on 13th and electronically

Financial / Staffing / Legal / Information Technology

Considerations

Grey County has invested $5,000 from the 2013 budget towards the development of the curriculum. Bruce County has invested $5,000 and Georgian College will invest $10,000.

Link to Strategic Goals / Priorities

This project aligns with Grey County’s Strategic plan Goal 1.3 to “enhance the viability and diversification of agricultural operations and primary industries”.

Respectfully submitted by,

Philly Markowitz
Economic Development Officer, Local Food

Director Sign Off: Bryan Plumstead, Economic Development and Tourism Manager