



Committee Report

To:	Warden Hicks and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	October 14, 2021
Subject / Report No:	CAOR-CW-12-21
Title:	Contribution to Georgian College BScN Program Implementation
Prepared by:	Kim Wingrove, CAO
Reviewed by:	Mary Lou Spicer, Director of Finance
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	All
Status:	

Recommendation

1. That Report CAOR-CW-12-21 be received; and
2. That a contribution to Georgian College in the amount of \$1,000,000 to support the implementation of the BScN program be included in the 2022 budget with funds to be drawn from the Healthcare Initiatives Reserve

Executive Summary

Georgian College is preparing to welcome students to a new 4-year BScN program at the Owen Sound Campus in September 2022. The college is responsible for raising the funds to support a required upgrade of 9200 square feet into a nursing and wellness wing at a cost of \$7.1 million. The renovation that will create a state-of-the-art simulation lab, classrooms, teaching apartment, etc. Grey County has been asked to donate \$1 million as part of a multi-pronged fund-raising effort.

Background and Discussion

On September 23, 2021 Committee of the Whole confirmed the September 14th resolution of the Health Care Funding Taskforce:

That the Health Care Funding Roles and Responsibilities Task Force support in principle the request from Georgian College for \$1 million to support the implementation of the BScN program at the Owen Sound campus and direct staff to bring further information forward to Committee of the Whole on the next steps and funding opportunities.

Grey County played an active part in advocating for colleges to be given nursing degree granting ability by the province. Joined by MPP Bill Walker, Grey County Councillors met at several AMO and ROMA conferences with the responsible provincial minister to champion this change. Until now, nursing students would do two years at a college and then have to move to a university to complete their degree. Very often, the urban hospitals who provided placement opportunities for students in the final part of their programs were able to hire them on graduating. This put rural communities like Grey County at a real disadvantage when competing for badly needed new Registered Nurses.

The program being implemented at the Owen Sound campus is the first college-based 4 year Honours Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) being implemented in Central Ontario. By 2026, the program expects to graduate 105 new nurses annually. Grey Bruce Health Services, Collingwood General and Marine Hospital and Grey County's Long Term Care department are all strongly in favour of the program, seeing it as a partial solution to the critical shortage of registered nurses in the region. The new facility will also offer an opportunity for local healthcare organizations to provide in-service training and for local professionals to upgrade their skills.

During Georgian's presentations to the taskforce and committee of whole, councillors heard that in 2019-20 the Owen Sound campus of Georgian College injected \$14.5 million in operational spending to the Grey County economy, another \$1.6 million in student spending and supported 1309 jobs.

With Council support, the \$1 million donation to the nursing campus redevelopment will be included in the 2022 budget. Staff recommend that the funds be drawn from the Healthcare Initiatives Reserve. Grey County annually places 0.5% of the levy into this reserve and the current balance is \$1,090,544. Alternatively, the funds could be borrowed from the reserve and repaid over several years or the project added to the levy.

Legal and Legislated Requirements

None with this report.

Financial and Resource Implications

The requested \$1,000,000 donation to Georgian College to support the nursing and wellness wing renovation will be included in the 2022 budget and staff recommends funding this from the Healthcare Initiatives Reserve.

Relevant Consultation

- Internal (list)
- External (list)

Appendices and Attachments

None