

## Report SSR-SS-01-14

**To:** Chair Burley and Members of the Social Services Committee  
**From:** Melissa McCulloch, Ontario Works Manager  
**Meeting Date:** January 15, 2014  
**Subject:** Request to Host Eligibility Review Officer Conference in 2015  
**Status:** Recommendation adopted by Committee as amended per Resolution SSC15-14 by removing “the City of Owen Sound and surrounding area” and inserting “Grey County” January 15, 2014; Endorsed by County Council February 4, 2014 per Resolution CC25-14;

### Recommendation(s)

**THAT Report SSR-SS-01-14 be received;**

**AND THAT the County of Grey hosts the Eligibility Review Officer two day Conference and Banquet in 2015 in the City of Owen Sound and surrounding area;**

**AND FURTHER THAT the County of Grey accept the funds of \$9911.61 from the 2013 host, Lennox- Addington County, for the purpose of hosting the bi-annual conference.**

### Background

The Eligibility Review Officer Conference is a provincial training opportunity for municipal Social Service Workers specializing in investigating fraud and reviewing eligibility for social assistance. The event brings together leading edge professionals in law enforcement, investigation services and immigration among other fields to present on areas of interest to Eligibility Review Officers.

The Conference was held this past fall in Napanee and was organized and hosted by Lennox- Addington County. Previous to this it was held in 2009 in Cornwall. When no host County stepped forward to host the next Conference the funds were held in trust by Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) until Lennox- Addington County initiated the 2013 Conference. Attendees and Committee members felt strongly

that there is a need for a bi-annual conference and Grey County's Eligibility Review Officer was approached.

Modelling after previous hosts, Grey County would ensure resources are used to display Grey County's unique attractions, excellent food and modern facilities.

## Financial / Staffing / Legal / Information Technology

### Considerations

The host municipality does not incur any direct financial costs. The start-up costs are provided by the previous conference revenue of \$9911.61 and the remaining costs are raised through registration fees.

It is estimated that it will require 50-60 hours of staffing time which will be distributed amongst Committee members, recognizing the host municipality will have more staffing hours invested. Grey County staff accumulating overtime hours as a result of the conference will take the overtime as lieu time.

Committee members do not pay Conference fees due to their time commitments prior and during the conference. In 2015 it is projected that two Eligibility Review Officers will be on staff in Grey County and both would attend the conference. Grey County would save a \$300 registration fee per participant plus accommodation and mileage if it was held outside of a neighbouring municipality.

A website that was used to distribute information for the last conference will be maintained by Lennox-Addington until 2015 and then it is estimated to cost \$600 to rebuild and update functionalities. This fee would be paid out of the revenue from the 2013 Conference and payable to Mundle Website Development, who created and maintains the current site [www.eroconference.com](http://www.eroconference.com). Using the website to disseminate information and forms will save staff time and administration costs. Grey County IT staff would not be expected to maintain the site and will not be required to assist with the conference.

### Link to Strategic Goals / Priorities

It has been established that hosting the Conference educates and connects workers from all over Ontario that often work in stand-alone positions. Stepping forward to host a Conference for a group of highly trained workers that are widely respected demonstrates that the County of Grey is committed to excellence in governance and service. Lastly, coming together over the course of two days in the fall is an ideal time to showcase recreational and cultural experiences Grey County has to offer visitors.

Respectfully submitted by,

Melissa McCulloch  
Ontario Works Manager

Director Sign Off: *Barb Fedy, Director of Social Services*