

November 9th, 2017

Mayor Maureen Cole
Municipality of South Huron
322 Main Street South
PO Box 759
Exeter, Ontario
N0M 1S6

Dear Maureen:

Thank you very much for the time that you took to meet with Jamie, Dave and me to discuss the progress on key GBACHC strategic directions. The focus of our discussion was on Collective Impact as well as the expansion of the community health centre in order to strengthen access to a range of health, social and wellbeing services.

As discussed, GBACHC has been working to support the needs of the people who reside in the West Coast Shores area with health and wellbeing supports as well as services to help them age in place. This work has included continued efforts in the area of Collective Impact, the Committee recently reconfirmed the focus on “Connected Rural Communities” and *addressing Social Inclusion through a Connecting People approach*. The proposed CHC expansion includes an emphasis on seniors, mental health support and wellness and we appreciated your expression of support for the GBACHC expansion. We also discussed GBACHC’s support of South Huron’s work to create of a Hub which includes services for youth, a pool with therapeutic programs as well as mental health and addiction support services. I hope you found the information I forwarded about the creating of Youth Wellness Hubs of value.

I now have a specific request for your consideration in relation to the Collective Impact Project (CI) “Connected Rural Communities” and its focus on *Social Inclusion and Connecting People*. We would greatly appreciate a letter of support for our funding application to the Ontario Trillium Foundation. We are submitting a request for funding for Phase 1 in the Collective Impact process to gather the stats and inventory of area resources inclusive of the municipalities of Lambton Shores, Bluewater and South Huron. The funding requested will support the short term CI plan which is to identify what it means to be connected, to develop shared measures and gather statistics to create an inventory of what’s available in the communities we serve along with gaps. We will continue to bring people and organizations to the table and build on partnerships to define the problems, opportunities and solutions.

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The long term CI plan is to reduce isolation and increase social inclusion and a sense of belonging. We will work to have a better sense of awareness, use of and access of community resources. Communication between partners will be expanded along with resource sharing in a timely manner. Engagement of individuals and the community will be increased and there will be more opportunities for access of programs and services. We believe there will be a lower cost to systems or a social return on investments with the results being better health & wellbeing of our communities.

Once the funding is secured, the needs assessment is completed, we can move forward with other stages of this work. Thank you for considering a letter of support for the Ontario Trillium Foundation Phase 1 Collective Impact funding to assist in moving this work forward.

Thank you again for meeting with us, for your suggestions and your ongoing support.

We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Cate Melito
Executive Director

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