



Managing the impacts of COVID-19

Update #8

June 7, 2021

COVID-19 update #8

- Supporting the community
- Supporting Guelph's workforce
- Supporting our organization
- Financial implications and recovery



Supporting the community

Providing front-line support

- Guelph-Wellington Paramedic Service is:
 - Delivering vaccinations to 200 home-bound patients
 - Transporting patients between hospitals to ensure continuity of care



Advocating for mental health supports

- Province of Ontario
 - \$175 million to improve access to mental health supports
- Federal government
 - \$45 million over two years to co-develop National Standards for Mental Health
 - \$100 million over three years to support innovative mental health interventions
 - \$50 million to support those at risk of experiencing pandemic-related post-traumatic stress disorder
 - Created the Wellness Together Canada Portal

Awarding emergency grant funding

- **\$2 million** available for not-for-profits, unincorporated groups and individuals to adapt services or strengthen capacity in response to COVID-19
 - \$1.3 million for COVID-19 Emergency Grants
 - \$700,000 Tourism Recovery Fund

Supporting seniors and vulnerable populations

- Delivering **350-400 meals a week**
- Offering **low-cost frozen meals to-go** through the Evergreen Seniors Community Centre
- Sent **45 pictures and letters** to seniors and those in long-term care centres
- Grow Back Better
 - Contributed over **\$1 million dollars** in Infrastructure Canada funding
 - Generated **\$1.2 million** in community donations and in kind contributions
 - Leveraged an additional **\$6.5 million** in public and private sector funding
 - Launched **Groceries from the SEED**, a pay-what-you-choose online grocery

Staying active

- Received over **\$23,000** from the New Horizons for Seniors Program for the Bike Wise Project
 - Seniors to (re)learn the rules of road riding, rebuild confidence riding on roads and trails, and learn how to repair and care for a bike
- Restored temporary active transportation lane on the Speedvale Avenue bridge until July

Navigating Guelph

- Guelph Transit is preparing to restore all routes and service levels this September
- Inter-regional transit has been permanently impacted by COVID-19
 - Greyhound Canada has stopped all bus service in the country
 - Partners are discussing ways to fill this gap

Supporting Guelph's workforce

Supporting local business

- Promoting local shopping using **GuelphShops.ca**
- Sharing the stories of the people behind Guelph's local businesses using **Guelph Shops Business Spotlight** profiles.
- Developing a five-year economic development strategy which will account for the impacts of COVID-19

Expanding the circular economy

- Received **\$5 million** from the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario to launch the Circular Opportunity Innovation Launchpad (COIL), which will:
 - Support the growth of 45 high-potential circular economy businesses with coaching and funding
 - Expand the Harvest Impact social impact investment fund
 - Lead five flagship demonstration projects
 - Launch three innovation challenges
 - Expand the Guelph-Wellington Circular Economy Urban Rural Test Bed
 - Expand the Circular Economy Data Hub
 - Launch a ReSource Exchange virtual business-to-business marketplace
- Received **\$200,000** from Next Generation Manufacturing Canada (NGEN) to contract a Food Hub Feasibility and Circular Food Manufacturing Capability Model

Supporting our organization

Engaging and supporting employees

- Increased coverage for psychology services
 - January 2021 through December 2022
- Completed a Pulse Check employee engagement survey
 - Almost 60 per cent of employees are engaged at work, compared to 41.5 per cent in 2019

Engaging and supporting employees

- Part-time and casual employees with COVID-19 symptoms or required to get a COVID-19 test are eligible for up to three days of paid emergency leave
- Eye protection is now required in City vehicles and facilities
- Released a new app for more active screening before employees come to work at City facilities

Financial implications and recovery

Managing financial implications

- Currently managing within budget; however, this could change throughout the year due to:
 - Rising fuel prices
 - Increasing COVID-19 expenditures
 - Increasing construction material costs
 - Inflationary costs

Managing financial implications

- Safe Restart Operating grant – **\$9.9 million** available to the City in 2021 and beyond
 - Transferred \$4.8 million of the 2020 unallocated balance
 - Received \$5.1 million through Phase 2 and 3
- Safe Restart Transit -
 - Phase 1 and 2: **\$7.7 million** to be used by March 31, 2021; however, had \$5.2 million unallocated due to the deadline
 - Deferred \$1.3 million of the 2020 unallocated balance from Phase 1
 - Received \$6.4 million for Phase 2
 - Phase 3: **\$5 million** (April 1 - December 31, 2021) is expected to fall short of actual need

Managing financial implications

- Canada Community-Building Fund (formerly Federal Gas Tax) – Guelph received an additional **\$8 million** this year
 - Used for capital projects
- Guelph-Wellington Paramedic Service receiving **\$6.1 million** in new funding
 - Over four years to provide medical support to seniors who are waiting to get into a long-term care facility

Managing financial implications

- Provincial government is:
 - **Providing** emergency child care funding for essential workers
 - **Considering** one-time Paramedic Service COVID funding for the vaccine distribution costs and protective medical-related equipment
- Senior levels of government have committed:
 - Reaching Home Funding: \$1.5 million
 - Social Services Relief Funding, phase 3: \$2.7 million
 - Used by County of Wellington Housing services for additional cleaning, personal protective equipment and social distancing measures

Recommendations

That report “Managing the Impacts of COVID-19: Update 8” dated June 7, 2021 be forwarded to the local Member of Parliament and Member of Provincial Parliament, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Association of Municipalities Ontario, Ontario Big City Mayors and the Federal Minister of Finance and the Ministers of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Minister of Finance for the Province of Ontario.