

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON AUGUST 26, 2014
FROM:	GRANT HOPCROFT DIRECTOR, INTERGOVERNMENTAL & COMMUNITY LIAISON
SUBJECT	AGREEMENT WITH THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO TO RECEIVE FUNDING FOR THE START UP YOUR BUSINESS INITIATIVE

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Director of Intergovernmental and Community Liaison, the attached proposed By-Law (Appendix 1) **BE INTRODUCED** at the Municipal Council meeting of September 2, 2014:

- a) **TO APPROVE** the Agreement (Schedule 1) of September 1, 2014, with Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Ontario, as represented by the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade to obtain Provincial funding of \$53,900 to develop the Start Up Your Business Initiative; and
- b) **TO AUTHORIZE** the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Agreement of September 1, 2014 in (a) above.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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None

BACKGROUND

The Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade has created a pilot project funding, "Innovative Immigration Initiatives" to fund immigration-based projects that encourage economic development in their communities. The City of London's proposal to promote London as a preferred destination for economic immigrants and to provide a clear path to success from application to business inception was accepted by the Province of Ontario.

Ontario's Immigration Strategy seeks to raise the proportion of economic immigrants from the current level of 52%, to 70%, to help build a skilled labour force. The proportion of economic immigrants for most other provinces is approximately 60%. The federal government has also made changes to the economic class immigration categories and has recently instituted a new Start Up Visa Program which links immigrant entrepreneurs with experienced private sector organizations which are experts in working with start-up companies. Through the creation of a multilingual video which promotes the benefits and available supports for an immigrant entrepreneur in London, and the development of a resource guide, the project will aim to increase the number of immigrant entrepreneurs in London by providing them with the information they need about supports to initiate their businesses. The primary audience is immigrant entrepreneurs and secondarily, international students and their families.

The City of London will work closely with the London Economic Development Corporation and an advisory committee drawn from relevant organizations that provide supports to entrepreneurs to implement this project. It will work with these same organizations, including

small business support services and educational institutions, to promote the video and resource guide on their websites and on the London and Middlesex Immigration Portal.

In 2013, 2043 immigrants in London had achieved their permanent residency and approximately 2000 were post-secondary international students.

All funding for this project will be provided by the Province of Ontario. In total, the province has to date provided over \$650,000 in funding towards the London Middlesex Immigration Portal and immigration-related initiatives.

Timing

The project will be completed by July 31, 2015.

Due to short turnaround timing, this report and the attached agreement is being tabled without benefit of advice from Legal Services in order to permit Council to review and approve it prior to the lame duck period. We anticipate receiving legal advice prior to the August 26 Committee date and if necessary, will table any recommended amendments with Committee at or before the meeting. This report was prepared in consultation with Jason Wills, Manager, Risk Management.

PREPARED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
JILL TANSLEY MUNICIPAL POLICY SPECIALIST	GRANT HOPCROFT, DIRECTOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND COMMUNITY LIAISON

Schedule 1: Ontario Agreement

Appendix 1: By-Law

APPENDIX 1

Bill No.
2014

By-law No.

A By-law to approve the Ontario Funding Agreement for the development of the Start Up Your Business Initiative of the City of London with Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Ontario as represented by the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade; and to authorize the Mayor and the City Clerk to execute the Agreement.

WHEREAS section 9 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* provides that a municipality has the capacity, rights, powers and privileges of a natural person for the purpose of exercising its authority under this or any other Act;

AND WHEREAS section 8 provides that the powers of a municipality shall be interpreted broadly so as to confer broad authority on the municipality to enable it to govern its affairs as it considers appropriate and to enhance its ability to respond to municipal issues;

AND WHEREAS subsection 10(1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* provides that a municipality may provide any service or thing that the municipality considers necessary or desirable for the public;

AND WHEREAS subsection 10(2) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* provides that a municipality may pass by-laws respecting: 5. Economic, social and environmental well-being of the municipality; 7. Services and things that the municipality is authorized to provide under subsection (1);

AND WHEREAS section 22 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* provides that a municipality may provide a system that it would otherwise not have power to provide within the municipality if it does so in accordance with an agreement with the Province of Ontario under a program established and administered by the Province of Ontario;

AND WHEREAS subsection 5(3) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended, provides that a municipal power shall be exercised by by-law;

NOW THEREFORE the Municipal Council of The Corporation of the City of London enacts as follows:

1. The agreement to be entered into between The Corporation of the City of London and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Ontario, for the provision of the Ontario Funding Agreement for the development of the Start Up Your Business Initiative, attached as Schedule "1" to this By-law, is approved.
2. The Mayor and the City Clerk are authorized to execute the agreement approved under section 1 above.
3. This by-law shall come into force and effect on the day it is passed.

PASSED in Open Council on September 2, 2014.

Joni Baechler
Mayor

Catharine Saunders
City Clerk

First reading -
Second reading –
Third reading -