



REPORT

REPORT TO: Mayor Bonnette and Members of Council

REPORT FROM: Deanna Locey, Transit Supervisor

DATE: October 5, 2020

REPORT NO.: TPW-2020-0036

RE: Memorandum of Understanding – Food for Life Canada and ActiVan

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. TPW-2020-0036, dated October 5, 2020, regarding the Memorandum of Understanding – Food for Life Canada and ActiVan be received;

AND FURTHER THAT Council approve staff authorization to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Food for Life Canada for the delivery of food donation bags in conjunction with the ActiVan specialized transit program;

AND FURTHER THAT Council approve staff authorization to execute any updates to a subsequent MoU with Food for Life Canada should the COVID-19 pandemic extend to 2021 and/or beyond.

BACKGROUND:

The Community Support Action Team (CSAT) was formed out of the current COVID-19 pandemic to provide support to vulnerable residents in Halton Hills. The CSAT consists of key internal staff members that collaborate and provide experience, knowledge and competence in assisting at-risk sectors and navigating resources. It is intended that the CSAT will expand and continue as an ongoing initiative proceeding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Food for Life Canada is the largest food recovery program in Halton Region that provides fresh and nutritious food to those in need. Everyday Food for Life Canada collects surplus perishable food (fruits, vegetables, dairy, meat, and prepared foods) from retail and wholesale food suppliers and grocery stores and is considered the largest food rescue organization in Halton Region and Hamilton. Volunteer based

outreach programs are then hosted weekly in community facilities; located throughout Halton Region for the delivery and distribution of food to families in need.

COMMENTS:

Since March 2020, repercussions of the global pandemic have highlighted the harsh realities of food insecurity and have increased the number of individuals dealing with its challenges on a daily basis worldwide. Moreover, numerous Halton Hills residents began to experience little or no access to food resources due to health, self-isolation, financial difficulties and/or transportation restrictions. In addition, Food for Life Canada recipients and new residents seeking food donation were also impacted in accessing food resources through community outreach programs.

In response to the food insecurity in Halton Region, Food for Life Canada has transitioned from their large volume food delivery program to a pre-packaged, contactless door-to-door method. As a volunteer run organization, the pressures in seeking unpaid assistance for the delivery of food became difficult.

In June 2020, in collaboration with CSAT and Food for Life Canada, the ActiVan specialized transit program began providing contactless door-to-door delivery of food donations for at-risk individuals and families. To date, the ActiVan program has aided Food for Life Canada in successfully delivering over 249 bags of food donation to homes in need in Halton Hills.

As the COVID-19 virus continues, and Canada enters into the 'second wave' of the pandemic, Town staff and Food for Life Canada recognized that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is necessary for the continuation of safe contactless food delivery. The MoU (Attachment 1) outlines necessary processes, expectations, and timeframes set out by each party with the intent to continue providing contactless food delivery during the pandemic to identified individuals requiring weekly food support.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

The recommendations of this Report support the Town of Halton Hills Strategic Plan priority area of Youth and Senior Initiatives and the focus area of Services and Facilities.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact associated with this report.

CONSULTATION:

The following staff were consulted through the development of this report: Senior Manager of Community Development, Community Development Supervisor – Volunteer and Group Support, Director of Communications, and the Director of Transportation.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

There is no Public Engagement required for this report.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

The Town is committed to implementing our Community Sustainability Strategy, Imagine Halton Hills. Doing so will lead to a higher quality of life.

The recommendation outlined in this report advances the Strategy's implementation.

This report supports the Social Well-being of Sustainability and in summary the alignment of this report with the Community Sustainability Strategy is Excellent.

COMMUNICATIONS:

The CSAT will continue to update the Town's website accordingly with information for residents seeking aid or assistance in response to concerns brought on by the pandemic.

In addition, contained in the MoU (Attachment 1), Food for Life Canada will continue to recognize the Town of Halton Hills and the ActiVan specialized transit program as "Food Hero's" through their social media platforms.

CONCLUSION:

To continue supporting the contactless food delivery initiative to vulnerable residents in Halton Hills, staff are seeking Council approval for staff authorization to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Food for Life Canada.

Safe contactless delivery of food donations is expected to continue in support of Food for Life Canada throughout the duration of the pandemic and/or when Food for Life Canada continues standard distribution of food donations through their regular community outreach programs.

Reviewed and Approved by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keller".

Mandy Keller, Senior Manager of Community Development

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maureen Van Ravens".

Maureen Van Ravens, Director of Transportation

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Andrews".

Bill Andrews, Commissioner of Transportation and Public Works

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Mills".

Chris Mills, Chief Administrative Officer