


TO: GENERAL COMMITTEE

FROM: CARLA LADD, CAO

NOTED: PATTI ELLIOTT-SPENCER, GM COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES 

RE: CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT FOR GEORGIAN COLLEGE HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTRE

DATE: SEPTEMBER 22, 2014

At their meeting of February 3, 2014, General Committee considered Staff Report CCS001-14 which recommended the approval of the scheduled payment of \$1,000,000 to Georgian College for the Centre of Health and Wellness. After consideration of the staff report and recommendation, General Committee passed the following resolution:

"That Staff Report CCS001-14 concerning the Contribution Agreement Status for the Georgian College Health and Wellness Centre be deferred pending receipt of further information regarding Georgian College's commitment and timelines related to the establishment of a satellite campus in Downtown Barrie."

Since Committee's consideration of this staff report, Georgian College attended Council on June 23, 2014 for the purposes of making a presentation on their submission to the Province under the Major Capacity Expansion program. Through this submission and in their presentation to General Committee, Georgian identified that a component of their growth is proposed to occur in downtown Barrie. This growth would include moving the School of Design and Visual Arts to the downtown, which would involve 600 students, 400 of which would be degree students. In addition, they have further identified the downtown as the location for an Entrepreneurship hub and business incubator likely associated with the Henry Bernick Centre. Attached is an excerpt from their presentation to Committee on June 23.

The contribution agreement requires the establishment of firm commitments and a timeline for Georgian to establish a satellite campus in accordance with the City's Downtown Commercial Master Plan. While Georgian has formally submitted a proposal to the Province for major capacity expansion which includes a downtown component, a firm commitment together with timelines for this project is difficult given it is subject to Provincial approvals for which no timelines have yet been identified.

However, we believe Georgian is committed to a strong presence in the downtown based on a number of opportunities that have been identified and discussed collectively over the past two years. One such opportunity is related to the Henry Bernick Centre and entrepreneurship in general. Prior to the proposal for the major capacity expansion, the City and College have been and continue to work collaboratively to explore the development of an entrepreneurial ecosystem in the City, including a potential application for funding to establish an incubator in the City. These discussions have focused on the downtown as a preferred location for these activities.

As such, we believe Georgian College is making every effort to honour and satisfy the requirements in the contribution agreement. Staff will be monitoring Georgian College's progress with respect to the commitment to a downtown Barrie presence. The recommendation from staff concerning the final payment to Georgian College will be conditional upon the commitment to a downtown presence being achieved.


Carla Ladd, CAO

Downtown Barrie

- Connect 1,000 students and faculty to Barrie's vibrant business and cultural scene
- Move 600 Design and Visual Arts students downtown
- Add 400 new degree students
- Entrepreneurship hub and business incubator

