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INDUSTRY EDUCATION COUNCIL: STAKEHOLDER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report dated December 3, 2008, from the Commissioner of Planning and Development Services.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Regional Council endorse the Stakeholder Recommendations for the York Region Industry Education Partnership as outlined in this report.
2. This report be circulated by the Clerk's Department to local municipalities, York Region public and private school boards, Chambers of Commerce and Board of Trade.

2. PURPOSE

To present the business model recommendations from the Industry Education Council stakeholder consultations.

3. BACKGROUND

During the Economic Strategy consultation process, the business community had suggested that the Region take an active role in the implementation of a York Region Industry Education Partnership.

In April 2007 Council approved a feasibility study to be conducted to formulate the implementation strategy and action plan for the York Region Industry Education Partnership.

During the fall of 2007 focus groups were conducted and interviews by telephone to determine interest in the formation of the Partnership.

In February 2008, Council approved that the Economic Development Branch create a stakeholder advisory group to develop the business case, mission and goals for a York Region Industry Education Partnership.

Presently there are 11 Industry Education Councils in Ontario:

- Business and Education Partnership of Waterloo Region

- Business Education Council of Niagara
- Career Education Council Guelph Wellington Dufferin
- Eastern Ontario Training Board
- Far Northeast Training Board
- Foundation for Enrichment of Education Perth Huron
- Halton Industry Education Council
- Industry-Education Council of Hamilton-Wentworth
- KEYS (Kingston Employment and Youth Services)
- OCRI (Ottawa Centre for Research and Innovation – Talent Works)
- Region of Peel (recently implemented, name unknown).

The purpose and roles of each Industry Education Council vary to meet local needs however the common goal is to encourage educators and employers to work together in the planning for future workforce needs.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

4.1 STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY GROUP PARTICIPANTS AND CONSULTATION SESSIONS

Stakeholders interested in developing the Industry Education Partnership participated in four consultation sessions during 2008 facilitated by Alice Strachan of the Ontario Business Education Partnership. The consultations were on the background, scope and framework; goals and mission; business models; and funding mechanisms. *Table 1* is a list of the Stakeholder Advisory Group.

Table 1
Stakeholder Advisory Group

Organization	Stakeholder
Alutron Modules	Vern Cunningham
Georgina Trades Training Inc.	Art Niezen
Matcom Industrial Installations	Bob Low
Ontario Business Education Partnership (facilitator)	Alice Strachan
Ontario General Contractors Association	Steve Bauld
Pickering College	Peter Sturup
Preffered Health Care Services	Lynn Slaney
Seneca College	Rodney Web
Student	Marissa McGaffey
Student	Todd Wierenga
Town of East Gwillimbury	Dan Stone
Town of Markham	Christina Kakflikas
YMCA Employment Programs	Megan Thomas

Organization	Stakeholder
York Catholic District School Board	Olga Ferro
York Region District School Board	Tom Hollands
York Region	Patrick Draper
York Region	Sharon Vegh
York South Simcoe Training and Adjustment Board	Al Wilson
York University	Peter Ross
York University	Michael Siu

The goals of the advisory group were:

- To formulate the structural framework including the mission and goals.
- To determine financing mechanisms and a funding model.
- To monitor trends to arm business with proactive workforce development actions.
- To develop and evaluate the structure, governance, and sustainability of the York Region Industry Education Partnership.

4.2 NAME, MISSION AND GOALS

The recommendations of the stakeholder advisory group consultations are:

- The proposed name of the entity should be:
The York Region Industry Education Partnership
- The mission of the partnership is:
The York Region Industry Education Partnership enhances community prosperity by advancing career connections and innovative partnerships among residents, educators and employers in York Region.
- The goals of the Industry Education Partnership are:
 - To mobilize York Region educators and employers to implement workforce development strategies that anticipate future employment trends.
 - To increase resident and employer awareness of current and future career related services provided by public/private partners in York Region.
 - To facilitate the efficient delivery of current and future career related services by public/private partners in York Region.

4.3 BUSINESS MODEL

The stakeholders recommended that the formation of the Industry Education Partnership begin as a committee model that can evolve into a non profit corporation model over time.

During the formative stages of the Industry Education Partnership, a committee model places a greater emphasis on the creation of work plans and projects versus the administrative tasks and cost associated with the establishment of a new non profit corporation.

The committee model will likely operate for 3 - 4 years and based on results achieved and future needs it may evolve into a non profit corporation model which is a more formalized structure with a Board of Directors, Executive Director, Committees, staff, and infrastructure.

The York Region Economic Strategy Branch will serve as the lead organizer of the Industry Education Partnership, providing administrative coordination including the collection and disbursement of funds.

The work of the Industry Education Partnership will be guided by a staff committee representing the key stakeholders in the partnerships. The staff committee would not exceed 12 members and may be supplemented with project specific teams.

4.4 INDUSTRY EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP FINANCIAL PLAN

The recommended committee business model requires base funding. The Economic Strategy Branch proposes to secure initial funding from York Region, the York Region School Boards, Universities, and Colleges in the amount of \$10,000 each for the initial start-up. Additional funding is expected to be obtained from employer membership fees of up to \$500.00 per year.

Funds collected from the Stakeholder Partnership will be used to provide for a part-time administrative coordinator and for costs associated with communicating the programs and services offered by the partnership members to York Region residents and businesses.

4.5 NEXT STEPS

The 2009 goals are:

- To secure initial funding from the key partners.
- To launch the Industry Education Partnership by April 2009.
- To collect information on all workforce related programs and services currently offered in York Region and to distribute this information in print and online.
- To establish the working committee membership and roles and responsibilities.
- To develop recommendations for new workforce development projects.
- To identify funding needs/sources for 2010/2011.

Relationship to Vision 2026

Vision 2026 identified attracting and supporting businesses, encouraging continual learning, promoting and supporting innovation, and partnering in service delivery as key elements in achieving the Vibrant Economy goal. Implementation of the Economic Strategy supports the Vibrant Economy Goal of Vision 2026.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Regional share of financial costs to implement the 2009 York Region Industry Education Partnership business model recommendation is included in the 2009 Economic Development budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The formation of an industry education partnership will benefit academia, industry, and the municipalities collectively through:

- Increased awareness of available programs and services.
- Reduction in service duplication.
- Increased ability of stakeholders to identify joint needs and collectively create collaborative solutions.
- Developing lifelong learning opportunities for residents.
- Facilitating job creation in designated employment areas.

A community's workforce is critical to its economic success. From a community perspective, the workforce is central to the municipality's economic future. Without the right workforce, companies expand elsewhere or relocate to a community where the company can draw on the required skills.

7. CONCLUSION

The Industry Education Partnership implementation was positively supported by the advisory group stakeholders.

Academia, government, and industry concluded that a positive region wide impact can result from establishing a York Region Industry Education Partnership building on the economic vibrancy of the Region.

For more information on this report, please contact the author Sharon Végh, Program Manager, Economic Strategy, at Ext. 1509 or Patrick Draper, Director, Economic Strategy & Tourism at Ext. 1503.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.