



Governance & Services Committee

TO: Governance and Services Committee

FROM: Corie Griffiths
Director, Economic Development and Bylaw Services

DATE: June 11 2020

SUBJECT: Terms of Reference Regional Economic Recovery Task Force

Purpose: To provide an update of the Regional Economic Recovery Task Force terms of reference.

Executive Summary:

The Central Okanagan economy, like economies worldwide, is impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Central Okanagan communities, supported by the COEDC, are serving the region by establishing and implementing a regional approach to economic response and recovery.

The regional approach is two-pronged and includes:

- I. Short term **Economic Response Action Team** to help local businesses “**weather the storm**” over the next several months
 - Focus is on ensuring public health and supporting businesses and the labour force through the immediate impacts of business shutdowns and/or severely reduced revenue.
 - Led by the Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission (COEDC) with input from business community stakeholders the development of immediate and short term response activities.

- II. Long term **Regional Economic Recovery Task Force** to develop a strategy to “**emerge stronger**”
 - Task Force will provide Central Okanagan Communities a forum for identifying economic recovery needs.
 - Position and advocate for anticipated stimulus program funding for Central Okanagan businesses and their employees.
 - At a political level, communicate Central Okanagan needs with One Voice to other orders of government.
 - Identify available areas for collaborative projects to support economic recovery.

The COEDC is serving as a conduit of key findings and regional industry insights to the Economic Recovery Task Force in order for the RERTF to advocate the region's needs to other orders of government as well as influence the development of a 3-5 year recovery strategy. Economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are broad and constantly evolving. The Economic Response Action Team and Economic Recovery Task Force are expected to evolve as the region responds to a changing landscape.

On May 27th 2020 the terms of reference for the Regional Economic Recovery Task Force were unanimously approved by the task force.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Governance and Services Committee receives for information the May 27 2020 approved Terms of Reference for the Regional Economic Recovery Task Force.

Respectfully Submitted:



Corie Griffiths
Director of Economic Development & Bylaw Services

Approved for Committee's Consideration



Brian Reardon, CAO

Implications of Recommendation:

Strategic Plan:	Receiving the report for information achieves the Regional Board Strategic Priorities 2019-2022 with respect to "Sustainable Communities" and "Economic Development".
Organizational:	RDCO 2020 operational work plan has been adjusted to provide support to the Recovery Task Force, the COEDC Advisory Council and the Response Action Team.

Background:

The Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission (COEDC) is a service of the Regional District of Central Okanagan, providing economic development services to the communities of Lake Country, Kelowna, Westbank First Nation, West Kelowna, Peachland and electoral areas East and West.

The COEDC is serving the region by establishing and implementing the following response and recovery plans:

1. Communicating the direction and protocols from Interior Health and the provincial and federal levels of government

2. Coordinating with partners to develop a two-phased regional approach:
 - A. Response Action Team to help local businesses “weather the storm”; and
 - B. Post-pandemic Economic Recovery Task Force to “emerge stronger”.

The Regional Economic Recovery Task Force (RERTF) will provide recommendations for region-wide actions and activities that support measures for other orders of government, as well as our local business community and the Central Okanagan region as a whole.

During the response phase, the focus has been to ensure public health and support businesses and the labour force through the immediate impacts of business shutdowns, and/or severely reduced revenue. The long-term recovery phase will focus on emerging from these crisis stronger and encouraging new opportunities for economic prosperity.

The RERTF will meet monthly or as determined by the Co-chairs commencing in May 2020. The RERTF will communicate to other orders of government the needs, barriers and opportunities of the Central Okanagan as the region transitions to recovery.

It will also guide the development of a long-term economic recovery plan developed to identify and support retention of the business base and inform employer’s mechanisms and resources in order to get people back to work as soon as possible following the response phase.

Financial Considerations: No anticipated changes for 2020. Evaluation of resource needs for 2021 and 2022 will be identified in and dependent on the region’s long term recovery strategy; at such time staff will bring forward a report to the RDCO Board.

Organizational Issues: Unanticipated use of staff resources to administratively support the Task Force.

External Implications: None

Alternative Recommendation: None recommended by staff.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

- Policy:
- Legal/Statutory Authority:

Attachment(s):
CO Response and Recovery Flowchart
TOR Economic Recovery Task Force