

**Council Meeting Number 03-2024**  
**Addendum**  
**Tuesday, January 9, 2024**

**Delegations**

The consent of Council is requested for the **addition** of Delegation Numbers 1 - 3.

1. Mary Jane Philp, 350 Kingston, will appear before Council to speak to Information Report Number 3 with respect to 2022 Corporate Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory.
2. Gavin Hutchison will appear before Council to speak to Information Report Number 3 with respect to 2022 Corporate Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory.
3. Kathleen O'Hara will appear before Council to speak to Information Report Number 3 with respect to 2022 Corporate Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory.

**Reports**

The consent of Council is requested for the **addition** of Clause 4 of Report Number 10:  
Received from the Chief Administrative Officer (Recommend).

**4. Planet Youth Program – Partnership – Grant Application**

**That** City Council endorse the City of Kingston partnership on the Planet Youth Program being led by Kingston Community Health Centres; and

**That** City Council commit \$30,000 from the Working Fund Reserve towards the Planet Youth Program; and

**That** City Council direct staff to be actively engaged in the Planet Youth program and support youth engagement in the program.

(The Report of the Chief Administrative Officer (24-064) is attached to the Addendum as schedule pages 1-6)



**City of Kingston  
Report to Council  
Report Number 24-064**

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**To:** Mayor and Members of Council  
**From:** Lanie Hurdle, Chief Administrative Officer  
**Resource Staff:** Jennifer Campbell, Commissioner, Community Services  
**Date of Meeting:** January 9, 2024  
**Subject:** Planet Youth Program - Partnership – Grant Application

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**Council Strategic Plan Alignment:**

Theme: 4. Foster a Caring and Inclusive Community

Goal: 4.1 Enhance community safety and well-being.

**Executive Summary:**

In early 2024, one of the City's partners, Kingston Community Health Centres (KCHC), approached staff about a new program ([Planet Youth](#)) in development which aims to steer young people towards positive activities and away from activities with negative impacts to their physical and mental health such as substance abuse. Planet Youth is a program that was initiated in Iceland and has had success in diverting young people away from substance use.

To implement the Planet Youth program, KCHC is seeking partners and applying for a grant through the "Youth Substance Use Prevention Program Stream 1: Incubator and Capacity Building" which is a federal program that has an application deadline of January 15, 2024.

The City of Kingston is being requested to contribute \$30,000 to this initiative and this contribution would be referenced as part of the grant application. This amount would cover the cost to register and be part of the Planet Youth model which provides a blueprint and guidance on steps to implement the program. Other partners and the grant funding will help cover other program and project costs should the application be successful.

This report is time sensitive due to the federal grant application deadline.

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**Recommendation:**

**That** City Council endorse the City of Kingston partnership on the Planet Youth Program being led by Kingston Community Health Centres; and

**That** City Council commit \$30,000 from the Working Fund Reserve towards the Planet Youth Program; and

**That** City Council direct staff to be actively engaged in the Planet Youth program and support youth engagement in the program.

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**Authorizing Signatures:**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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**Lanie Hurdle, Chief  
Administrative Officer**

**Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:**

Paige Agnew, Commissioner, Growth & Development Services Not required

Jennifer Campbell, Commissioner, Community Services

Neil Carbone, Commissioner, Corporate Services Not required

David Fell, President & CEO, Utilities Kingston Not required

Peter Huigenbos, Commissioner, Major Projects & Strategic Initiatives Not required

Brad Joyce, Commissioner, Infrastructure, Transportation  
& Emergency Services Not required

Desirée Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer

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**Options/Discussion:**

Kingston Community Health Centres (KCHC) and other partners have been collecting information on mental and physical health of youth within the community over the last several years. The following information/data covers Kingston Frontenac, Lennox & Addington (KFL&A) and has been in part the basis for the interest in implementing the Planet Youth (Planet Youth) program in this region:

- Percentage of vulnerable children in KFL&A is higher than the Ontario average and trending upwards (EDI, early development index)
- Violent Crime Severity Index StatsCan 2017 showed that Kingston was the city with the largest increase in Canada
- City of Kingston declared an Epidemic of Intimate Partner Violence (October 17, 2023)
- The Wellbeing of Ontario Students - Ontario Student Drug Use Health Survey 2021 (most recent available statistics) showed almost half of youth surveyed reported moderate to serious psychological distress and 26% reported serious psychological distress; 1 in 5 reports harming themselves on purpose in the past year
- Increased number of consults in the past year to Street Health Centre for youth using fentanyl and crystal meth (youngest 11 years old)
- Increased number of youths reporting poor mental health
- Seeing adolescents, out of school, in the encampment using substances.

KCHC reached out to other community agencies and organizations to seek support to implement the Planet Youth program that would aim to divert youth away from substance use. Other agencies/organizations, including school boards, have committed to partner to implement Planet Youth. It is anticipated that more community partners will join through the engagement phase of the program.

Planet Youth was developed from the Icelandic Prevention Model – a theory-based approach with demonstrated effectiveness in reducing substance use in Iceland for over 20 years. The Planet Youth Guidance Program is designed to strengthen protective factors, mitigate risk factors, and build healthy community environments for positive youth development by focusing on key domains in the local school-community: family, peer group, leisure (out-of-school) time, and school.

The Planet Youth Guidance Program is a population-wide primary prevention process designed to have a long-term impact in communities on reducing youth substance use through creating a healthy built environment. Planet Youth treats society as “the patient” and believes that building a community environment that delays the onset of alcohol, tobacco, and other substances for as long as possible is an effective approach to reducing the long-term health problems related to youth substance use.

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**Planet Youth is:****Data-Driven**

The Planet Youth data tool supports positive youth development through a biennial survey. Surveying is completed by grade and the Planet Youth survey is most commonly deployed among ages 15 and 16 years (grade 10). Communities receive the data back within 8 weeks so they know what is going on with their youth right now and can respond quickly. Planet Youth is now supporting hundreds of communities with this approach.

**Adaptable**

Planet Youth builds community-specific and institution-level capacity for leadership and problem-solving. Planet Youth trusts communities to learn, grow, and develop solutions that will work locally. This work relies on community leadership and expertise and is not a “one size fits all” approach.

**The Impact:**

Substance use is a leading contributor to poor health outcomes. Substance use in youth is a growing concern. To make an impact, the Planet Youth Program works on factors that affect the health of all Kingstonians, known as the determinants of health.

Substance use prevention not only benefits the health and well-being of the population, but also helps to improve community safety, decrease injuries, and reduces the high healthcare, social, and legal costs associated with substance use each year.

The impact of reducing overall substance use and delaying first use of substances (as younger age of first use increases the risk of harms) has a positive impact on the individuals – the young people, as well as on the community.

KCHC has reached out to various organizations to help support the implementation of Planet Youth and has requested that the City of Kingston be a partner and contribute \$30,000 to this project. The \$30,000 would cover the cost to register, be part of the Planet Youth model and receive program supports. Planet Youth aligns with the City’s goals and objectives within the Community Safety & Wellbeing Plan as well as within the work to be led by the City’s “Community Development and Wellbeing” department that is being established in 2024.

In addition, KCHC is applying to a federal grant to help finance the remainder of the program costs which will include coordination and research costs. In the 2023 federal budget, the Government of Canada announced an investment of \$20.2 million for a new, community-based program to prevent substance use and its related harms among young people. The Youth Substance Use Prevention Program is now being launched by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). Using a collaborative approach, it focuses on building protective factors that promote overall health and well-being, and prevent substance use harms among youth.

KCHC is also working on other funding options to ensure that the program can proceed regardless of the outcome of the grant application.

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**Financial Considerations**

Staff are recommending that the City of Kingston contribute \$30,000 to the Planet youth Program to be funded by the Working Fund Reserve.

**Contacts:**

Lanie Hurdle, Chief Administrative Officer, 613-546-4291 extension 1231

**Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:**

None

**Exhibits Attached:**

None