

**Town of Fort Frances
Administrative Report**

TO: Committee of the Whole
FROM: Faisal Anwar, CAO
SUBJECT: **Contribution Agreement – Fort Frances Community Microgrid Feasibility Study**
DATE: January 24, 2022

Issue:

Consider entering into a contribution agreement with the Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario (FedNor) for Fort Frances Community Microgrid Feasibility Study.

Strategic Impact:

Objective 1, Attracting new industry and attracting investment for local business development; and Objective 25, Preserve Power Agreement, and support Fort Frances Power Corporation.

Administrative Recommendation:

RECOMMENDED THAT Council of the Town of Fort Frances enter into a contribution agreement with the Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario for funding relating to Fort Frances Community Microgrid Feasibility Study; and

FURTHER THAT a by-law be prepared authorizing the agreement be signed by Mayor and Clerk.

Analysis:

The purpose of the study is to determine the feasibility for the development of an integrated, community-based electric microgrid system in the Town of Fort Frances. The study will determine:

- A. If low electricity rates, energy self-sufficiency, and enhanced supply of electricity can be achieved through an integrated community-based microgrid system.
- B. If and how a microgrid system could have impact on economic growth and prosperity of the town and contribute to:
 - i. Modernizing the Town of Fort Frances.
 - ii. Attracting new businesses and industries into the town.
 - iii. Leading to creating new jobs.
 - iv. Making the community attractive for living and working.

The Town has been successful in receiving \$350,000 funding from FedNor to complete the feasibility study. The Fort Frances Network Services Corporation, a subsidiary of the Town of Fort Frances and an affiliate of Fort Frances Power Corporation (FFPC), is contributing \$50,000 towards the study along with in-kind contribution from the Town of Fort Frances in terms of support from staff on technical matters.

History:

In March of 2020 a special FFPC shareholder meeting was called to obtain support for microgrid feasibility study partnership. On behalf of FFPC, the Corporation of Town of Fort Frances submitted Fort

Frances Community Microgrid Feasibility Study Phase 1 grant application to FedNor on September 23, 2020, followed by Phase 2 submission on January 22, 2021.

Consultation:

- President & CEO, Fort Frances Power Corporation

Supporting Document / Financial Documents:

- Contribution Agreement