

**CANADA-ONTARIO MUNICIPAL RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (COMRIF)
INTAKE TWO APPLICATION APPROVAL
GREENING VAUGHAN (PHASE 2) – GREEN BIN ORGANICS COLLECTION**

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Finance & Corporate Services and the Commissioner of Engineering & Public Works in consultation with the Director of Public Works and the Managers of Capital and Solid Waste Management recommend:

1. THAT the information contained in this report with respect to the COMRIF program be received,
2. THAT staff be authorized to submit an application to Intake Two of the COMRIF program for "**Greening Vaughan (Phase 2) – Green Bin Organics Collection**" for an amount up to \$2,435,950 requesting 2/3 funding from the Governments of Canada and Ontario in the combined amount of \$1,623,967 for a net cost to the City of \$811,983,
3. THAT the total funding requirement of \$2,435,950 be included in the 2006 capital budget deliberations process and funded from taxation contingent on COMRIF funding approval,
4. THAT for the purposes of the COMRIF application, Council endorse "**Greening Vaughan (Phase 2) – Green Bin Organics Collection**" as the Municipality's highest priority and,
5. THAT the appropriate staff be authorized to sign the application and the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary agreements.

Economic Impact

An economic benefit in the amount of \$1,623,967 would be realized if the COMRIF application is approved. This would reduce the taxation funding required to implement this project.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information pertaining to Intake Two of the Canada-Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (COMRIF) program and seek Council authorization to submit an application to COMRIF to meet the September 30th, 2005 deadline.

Background - Analysis and Options

On November 15, 2004, the \$900 million COMRIF program was launched to improve and renew public infrastructure across the province. COMRIF targets the infrastructure needs of small urban and rural communities with a population of less than 250,000 people.

The City of Vaughan submitted an application entitled "**Watermain Replacements – Various Locations**" in the amount of \$9,516,000 for the Intake One deadline of January 10, 2005. Over 350 applications were received by COMRIF requesting Federal and Provincial assistance valued at over \$1.3 billion, for projects valued at over \$2 billion for Intake One. On April 25, 2005 COMRIF announced funding for 120 of those applications which did not include the City of Vaughan application.

Intake Two was announced on June 16, 2005 and staff are seeking approval to submit an application entitled "**Greening Vaughan (Phase 2) – Green Bin Organics Collection**" in the amount of \$2,435,950.

The application deadline is September 30, 2005 and is comprised of four requirements:

- (1) application and business case
- (2) appropriate Intake Two technical schedules
- (3) mandatory questionnaire on federal and provincial policy directions
- (4) certified true copy of the municipal council resolution endorsing the project as the municipality's highest priority

As Council is aware, Phase 2 of the Greening Vaughan strategy is the introduction of the source separated organics collection component of the waste stream. Based on a waste composition study conducted by the City, 30.9% of residential waste comprises of organic material that can be composted and diverted from landfill. To ensure that all residents participate in this program, the City will be supplying each household with a dedicated organics collection container (green bin), as well as a small in-house receptacle for use in the kitchen area. In addition to the provision of the containers themselves, a strong promotional and educational component will be required to educate the residents on the use of the green bin, as well as how to properly manage the residual wastes. The total cost of this is estimated to be \$2,435,950, with the first collection of organic waste scheduled to commence November of 2006.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

COMRIF and this report are consistent with the Vaughan Vision Statement "promotes a safe, livable and sustainable environment" and through the enhancement of non-tax revenues by evaluating and increasing grants and subsidies available from external agencies.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources will be included in the 2006 capital budget for deliberation and approval.

Conclusion

Intake Two of the COMRIF program provides Vaughan with the opportunity to seek alternative funding. By providing authorization to submit an application for "**Greening Vaughan (Phase 2) – Green Bin Organics Collection**", and if approved, a funding savings of up to \$1,623,967 will be realized. In order to meet all application criteria, Council must endorse this project as the Municipality's highest priority at this time.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Commissioner of Finance & Corporate Services

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