



## **Administrative Report**

**To:** Warden MacDonald and Members of Essex County Council

**From:** Sandra Zwiers, MAcc, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer

**Date:** Wednesday, March 5, 2025

**Subject:** Border Mayors Alliance 2025

**Report #:** 2025-0305-CAO-R03-SZ

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### **Purpose**

To seek County Council approval to fund membership in the Border Mayors Alliance on behalf of all seven local municipal partners.

### **Background**

Tariffs, whether threatened or enacted, pose specific concerns for border communities across Canada. Essex County is home to a large concentration of industries with direct and indirect trade ties to the United States. Our economic circumstance and geography present unique challenges that other communities may not face.

The Border Mayors Alliance (BMA) was established to gather and coordinate the economic perspectives of border communities and formalize advocacy on their collective behalf.

### **Discussion**

In order to efficiently and effectively develop an advocacy strategy, a consultant has been retained at the initiation of the Mayor of the City of Windsor, Drew Dilken. The BMA proposes funding the work of the consultant based on a membership fee determined on a per capita basis of participating border communities.

The total cost for all seven local municipalities within the County of Essex is estimated to be approximately \$10,000.

Membership in the BMA is restricted to Mayors. The County of Essex, which is represented by a Warden, would not be eligible for membership. To ensure the entire Essex County region has a voice in the BMA,

administration recommends the County fund the 2025 membership fee to support all seven mayors' participation. Mayors would represent the economic perspective specific to their local municipality.

It is unknown, at this time, whether the BMA will remain active/relevant beyond 2025. Administration recommends the Essex County CAOs obtain feedback from their respective Mayors prior to the 2026 Budget setting process and inform the County CAO as to the progress/success of the BMA and make a recommendation about whether membership funding should continue or cease at the end of 2025.

### **Financial Implications**

In recognition that many, if not all, local municipal budgets are already set for 2025, administration recommends funding the per capita costs for all seven local municipalities from the County's Rate Stabilization Reserve. It is estimated that the total per capita cost for Essex County municipalities would be \$10,000.

### **Consultations**

Essex County CAOs

### **Strategic Plan Alignment**

<b>Working as Team Essex County</b>	<b>Growing as Leaders in Public Service Excellence</b>	<b>Building a Regional Powerhouse</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Scaling Sustainable Services through Innovation</li><li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Focusing "Team Essex County" for Results</li><li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocating for Essex County's Fair Share</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Being an Employer with Impact</li><li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A Government Working for the People</li><li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Promoting Transparency and Awareness</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Providing Reliable Infrastructure for Partners</li><li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting Dynamic and Thriving Communities Across the County</li><li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harmonizing Action for Growth</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Advancing Truth and Reconciliation</li></ul>

## **Recommendation**

That Essex County Council receive report number 2025-0305-CAO-R03-SZ, Border Mayors Alliance 2025 as information and authorize the funding of the 2025 per capita membership for all seven local municipalities from the Corporation's Rate Stabilization Reserve.

## **Approvals**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Sandra Zwiers*

Sandra Zwiers, MAcc, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer

<b>Appendix</b>	<b>Title</b>
N/A	N/A