

**2020 Year 2 Proposal
to the Strategic Community Initiatives Fund**
Bruce County Human Services Department
Attention: Christine MacDonald, Director



Noreen Steinacher MSW RSW, Chair
The Meeting Place Tobermory (TMP)
20 Centennial Drive, Box 147
Tobermory, ON N0H 2R0

March 4, 2020

Proposal: Building Social Capital to address Human and Economic Risks in a Seasonal Economy
Year 2: SPARK – Seasonal Workers Spark Actions (for Community)

Proposal Objectives:

The Meeting Place Tobermory will use its 'Place Based Social Support Practice Framework' attached (developed in 2017) as a guide to **facilitate strategies that 'link' and 'mobilize' local resources** to address seasonal poverty in the Northern Bruce. In Year 2 of this project, the organization, **will continue to facilitate Spark groups** (described in 2019 Year 1 2020 report) to **develop actions** that will address risks and create benefits for those working in the seasonal economy. The challenge in Year 2 is to try to deliver solutions in a viable and sustainable way. This is the second year of a two-year initiative asking for \$6,000 in 2020.

Process Activities:

The need areas of housing, transportation, education, broadening economic security, information access and entrepreneurship are generating multiple ideas that may lead to actions. The project will focus on **linking** and **mobilizing** Spark groups with the project's local 'consultants' from businesses, health, social and child services, economic development experts and other seasonal workers. Spark groups will seek to gain feedback and support for what ideas could be developed into local, viable actions that might reduce the impact of seasonal poverty. Members of the Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force will also be asked to give feedback.

What will this look like: The three existing Spark Groups formed in 2019/20 will take their best ideas and create prototype solutions **for presentation and feedback using a 'pitch' format**. The next step will be to take **several prototypes and test these in the real world** or as close to it as possible. In Year 2 each Spark group may evolve with new members but will continue to have representatives from the seasonal work force and other community stakeholders. Insights, successes and failures in the experiences of other like communities will be incorporated into the process.

Outcomes:

Measures of success in Year 2 might include securing agreement to pilot an action proposal in the community; finding investment funding from an outside organization; or re-organizing existing community resources to implement a Spark prototype.

Budget Breakdown:

Year 2

\$5,500 Facilitator wages

\$500 Communication & documentation resources

The Meeting Place Tobermory will be the lead organization providing administration, social media and evaluation support to the Initiative. During the last year of the initiative would be an ideal time to host a community development forum by the Tamarack Institute on a cost recovery basis.

Summary:

The Meeting Place Tobermory is a small, innovative grass roots organization. Its community hub orientation is suited to the Northern Bruce. The proposal from TMP in Year 2 will continue to bring together different sectors and communities within the Northern Bruce to link, mobilize and create new resources. The proposal aligns with County of Bruce Human Services by addressing gaps in services and/or unmet needs of low-income residents. It utilizes knowledge and support from other community initiatives like the Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force. This is a mid to long-term project that has potential to identify and strengthen community and service systems in a more isolated part of Bruce County.

Attachments:

'Place Based Social Support Practice Framework'
2019 Year 1 Final Report