



Committee of the Whole

Meeting Date: September 26, 2023

Submitted by: Cathy Burghardt-Jesson, Warden

Subject: Partnerships for Municipal Innovation – Women in Local Leadership (PMI-WILL)

BACKGROUND:

On February 4, 2022, Middlesex County received notification that its application to join the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) Partnerships for Municipal Innovation - Women in Local Leadership (PMI-WILL) project had been approved. The County has been selected to work with Cambodia.

PMI-WILL is a six-year project (2021-2027) that is part of FCM's portfolio of gender equality and women in local government initiatives. By pairing Canadian municipalities with local governments in Benin, Cambodia, Ghana, Sri Lanka and Zambia, PMI-WILL aims to improve the quality of life for women and girls by empowering women to participate in leadership and decision-making in local governance and by increasing local governments' ability to deliver inclusive municipal services that meet the needs of women and girls, especially those from marginalized groups.

Participation requires elected officials and staff to take part in virtual workshops and seminars, as well as in-person international technical missions. The County may also host an international delegation for a study visit in 2024 and onwards.

On February 8, 2022, Council approved participation in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Partnerships for Municipal Innovation – Women in Local Leadership (PMI-WILL) project. The County of Middlesex has been selected to participate in a Gender Responsive and Inclusive Participatory Consultation Workshop in Cambodia.

The Canadian team, consisting of the County of Middlesex and the Town of Truro, will be joining the second workshop, to be held in Kampot for two Local Governments (LG), from December 4th to December 8th. The goals of the workshop are to:

- Enable participants to understand gender transformative approaches to developing inclusive service delivery initiative.

- Build participant capacity in fund-raising and proposal preparation, including budget development.
- Develop understanding of how to generate internal revenue and access external sources of funding to implement priority service improvement plans and initiatives.


The Middlesex team going to Cambodia is Jessica Ngai and Warden Cathy Burghardt-Jesson.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The project is funded by the Canadian federal government through Global Affairs Canada. Each Canadian municipality is expected to participate in 1 to 2 missions of 7- 15 days yearly between 2022 and 2026. Each mission team would consist of 1-3 individuals from the County. FCM pays for all travel expenses and Canadian municipalities donate the time of their employees/elected officials as an in-kind contribution to the project.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC FOCUS:

This report aligns with the following Strategic Focus, Goals, or Objectives:

Strategic Focus	Goals	Objectives
Cultivating Community Vitality 	Advance a diverse, healthy, and engaged community across Middlesex County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and support community wellness • Innovate social and community services
Promoting Service Excellence 	Innovate and transform municipal service delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build organizational capacity and capabilities

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Partnerships for Municipal Innovation – Women in Local Leadership (PMI-WILL) report be received for information.