



## STAFF REPORT

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**Department/Function:** Public Works Department

**Chair:** Councillor Rick Black

**Meeting Date:** March 19, 2014

**Subject:** Blue Communities

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the report dated March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014 pertaining to the Township of Tay becoming a Blue Community be accepted;**

**And that Council endorses the Blue Communities Project with the understanding that bottled water can still be sold at municipal facilities and during municipal events during a transition period;**

**And further that the Township will consider options on how to increase access to water refill stations**

### **INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:**

At the January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Committee of all Council meeting there was a delegation in regards to Tay Township potentially becoming a Blue Community. The Blue Communities Project is a joint initiative of the Council of Canadians and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE). The delegation asked Council to support the three guiding principles behind the Blue Communities Project and become one of sixteen communities in Canada that have become 'Blue'.

### **ANALYSIS:**

The Blue Communities Project has three guiding principles:

1. Recognize water as a human right
2. Promote publicly financed, owned and operated water and wastewater services
3. Ban the sale of bottled water in public facilities and at Municipal events

The first two principals can be very easily met by the Township. The third principal is where it becomes a little more difficult for the Township. Currently the Township does not have any water refill stations (fixed or portable) at its disposal to use as alternative water options at municipal facilities and events. Therefore it would not be feasible for the Township to ban the sale of bottled water in public facilities and at municipal events until it was able to provide alternative water options at their facilities and during events. If the Township wanted to move ahead with endorsing the Blue Communities Project then money should be set aside during future budget deliberations to have water fill stations installed at their municipal facilities and/or increase budget dollars for special events to include the rental of portable public water refill stations. This could be spread over many years with the hopes of having refilled stations first installed at municipal indoor facilities and then move to outdoor facilities.

**SUSTAINABILITY PLAN**

The Blue Communities Project supports the Environmental Integrity and Protection pillar of the Sustainability Plan.

**FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPACT:**

The financial impact of this report will be the cost of installing water refill stations at Township facilities. Initially the thought is to set aside \$2000 in the budget per year to upgrade one facility at a time.

**CONCLUSION:**

It is hoped that the Township would endorse the idea of becoming a Blue Community with the hopes that it will progressively work towards installing water bottle refill stations at Township Facilities both indoor and outdoor over the next of several years'.

Date Prepared: March 7, 2014

Prepared By;

Recommended by;

Bryan Anderson  
Manager of Parks and Facilities

Peter Dance, P. Eng.  
Director of Public Works

Reviewed By;

Date:

Robert Lamb  
C.A.O.

Attachment: Support letter from the Council of Canadians