



REPORT TO: Co-Chair and Members of the
Public Health and Social Services Committee

SUBJECT: 2008 Ontario Works Enhanced Family Support Initiative (EFSI)
Service Contract

RECOMMENDATION

That this Committee recommend to Regional Council that the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into the 2008 Ontario Works Enhanced Family Support Initiative (EFSI) Service Contract with the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS), (100% Provincial Subsidy =\$125,000 / Regional Contribution=\$0).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has been prepared to obtain approval for corporate signatures for the MCSS 2008 Ontario Works EFSI Service Contract.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Provincial funding associated with this Service Contract for program management corresponds with the 2008 approved budget for Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities (SAEO). Provincial Subsidy 100% = \$125,000 / Regional Contribution = \$0.

PURPOSE

Staff are in receipt of correspondence from the MCSS (Appendix 1) requesting that the Ministry's 2008 Ontario Works EFSI Service Contract be signed.

BACKGROUND

Niagara Region has been receiving EFSI funding since 2000, and has been involved in assisting clients in obtaining child support since this responsibility was devolved to the Region as part of the local service realignment in 1998/1999.

REPORT

The Provincial funding associated with this Service Contract is consistent with the Community Services SAEO 2008 Operating Budget. Provincial funding is provided to support three staff working to achieve the EFSI targets. The family support function helps Ontario Works participants obtain the support that they are legally entitled to receive under the Family Law Act. It also serves to protect MCSS and the Region's interest in obtaining outstanding arrears. The overall goal of the EFSI is to increase the percentage of support provisions in place and the average amount of support in pay.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Brian Hutchings
Commissioner, Community Services

Mike Trojan
Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared by Finola Malone, Program Cost Analyst and reviewed by Cathy Cousins, Director Operational Support Services and Sarah Pennisi, Director Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities.

Appendix 1 – Correspondence requesting the Ministry's 2008 OW EFSI Service Contract be signed.