

Draft Resolution to Council Re Environmental Officer Position  
For Consideration at the April 7, 2021 SCCAC Meeting

WHEREAS the Sustainability and Climate Change Advisory Committee (SCCAC) has learned that the position of Environmental Officer ends May 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS this position is partially funded by Cobourg and the person presently holding this position, Judy Smith, has supported Cobourg to address the climate emergency, including providing Cobourg with a Climate Action Plan; and

WHEREAS a number of environmental initiatives within Cobourg's Climate Action Plan and related to Cobourg's Climate Emergency Declaration have been initiated by Judy for which the expertise of an environment expert is needed to assist existing Cobourg staff to implement; and

WHEREAS the need to address the Climate Emergency is ever more urgent as time moves on and additional actions must be implemented; and

WHEREAS we have seen how governments respond to an emergency through their response to COVID:

- businesses were shut down within days; some lost forever;
- people lost their jobs; increase in food bank use in our country; other countries experiencing increased starvation;
- people being isolated; families not being with loved ones when they die;
- children losing valuable school years; increase in drug overdose; increase in mental health issues;

WHEREAS global heating is **an emergency of a worse scale than the pandemic**; it will have **way more severe and long lasting consequences**; people are already dying from global heating; and

WHEREAS there is a relationship between environmental destruction and an increase in pandemics and in resilience to pandemics;

NOW THEREFORE THE SCCAC Recommends that Cobourg

- immediately work on having this shared Environmental Officer position extended for six months, and if the County or other municipalities are unwilling, then Cobourg extend it with their own funding;
- in the meantime create and fill a permanent 'environmental staff person' position within Cobourg recognizing the priority of addressing the climate **emergency** we are now facing;
- increase property taxes as needed to extend the current Environmental Officer position, and fund the permanent Cobourg environmental staff person position, knowing that it will displease some Cobourg citizens but keeping in mind that actions government took to address the pandemic emergency had greater negative consequences for businesses and citizens within Cobourg as mentioned above.