To:	**Sustainable Peterborough Coordinating Committee (SPCC)**
From:	**Anca Pascalau, Sustainable Peterborough Coordinator**
Meeting Date:	**November 28, 2023**
Subject:	**Staff Report – SDG Localization Subcommittees**

Further to the survey completed by the SPCC this summer, the top two priority SDGs selected were SDG 1 – No Poverty and SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities. The third ended up in a tie between SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth and SDG 13 – Climate Action. The Executive Committee subsequently decided that the third SDG of immediate focus for SP should be SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth. While the Committee acknowledged the importance of SDG 13 – Climate Action, they further acknowledged the overwhelming merits of SDG 8, especially as related to supporting and achieving SDG 1. Moreover, as SP is operating under the auspices of PKED, selecting SDG 8 will support PKED's work, as it is identified as an SDG of focus in PKED's Future Ready Economic Development Strategy, and will provide improved SP PKED alignment while further solidifying the relationship. The Executive Committee further acknowledged that while SDG 13 is very important, Climate Action is already being worked on by municipalities and other community organizations and institutions. As the SDGs are by nature interconnected, Climate Action elements can be identified across all SDGs, including SDG 11, which was the top choice in the survey. As such, within the new tracking website, each indicator will be linked to all SDGs to which it's connected. SDG 13 localization will start in early 2024.

Three SDG localization subcommittees with diverse memberships (including one SPCC member on each) were established to work on a priority SDG. Each subcommittee is tasked with reviewing and localizing each UN indicator and identifying additional custom indicators unique to our community in support of each SDG (original UN indicators, UN indicators edited to more accurately reflect what we want depicted, and a wish list of unique local non-UN indicators that we may wish to consider). The subcommittees are keeping in mind that data availability should drive indicator selection, for each SDG and indicator we must have reliable, free/cost effective, consistently available data sources that we can collect and capture annually, ideally a mix of StatCan data and other data sets and sources. As some of you are aware, an ongoing challenge experienced with our last SP Plan was the lack of consistent, available quantitative data, an issue identified and discussed during the strategic planning process. We are thus actively trying to mitigate encountering similar challenges with our new Plan. As such, the subcommittees were also tasked with identifying data sets and sources to support each indicator.

So far we had great discussions about things such as "what is the meaning of the SDG we are trying to work on", "what are we aiming to measure and achieve", "what is the picture that we are trying to paint"? There's no simple answer to any of these, but our project, as outlined in our strategic plan, will be focusing on helping achieve the SDGs as defined by the UN while also keeping in mind the uniqueness of our community and recognizing which indicators are meaningful to our local context to help tell a story about our community, assist orgs/businesses/institutions with data access, provide data and resources to support other orgs with accessing funding opportunities, general community building decision making, etc.

Very few communities in Canada are actively working on the SDGs specifically, which makes our project that much more unique and significant, but also a tad more difficult since we don't have much comparable work and best practice examples to learn/borrow from. The upside, however, is that this allows us quite a bit of flexibility in how we define and shape our work.

Each subcommittee was established and started work at different times, so the original timeline for project completion, late July to late October, has shifted as we experienced delays due to scheduling difficulties, research, difficulty getting responses on data availability, etc. The SDG 8 Localization Subcommittee will likely wrap up the work by the end of 2023, with the other 2 subcommittees potentially wrapping up by late January, 2024. It is important to note that these 3 subcommittees also served the significant role of pilots, as this work will also be essential in establishing a process and workflow moving forward to be applied to the balance of the SDG localization subcommittees. The next 2 SDGs of focus, as identified by the survey, will be SDG 4 – Quality Education, and SDG 13 – Climate Action. The subcommittees will be established, and the localization work will tentatively commence early next year.