



June 3, 2020

RE: Bruce County Economic Taskforce Sub-Committee “Waiving of County Planning Fees and Municipal Fees”

The Bruce County Economic Taskforce Sub-Committee “Waiving of County Planning Fees and Municipal Fees” was formed to investigate short-term opportunities to support the needs of the business community in the wake of COVID-19 from a broad perspective.

Below is a list of the County and Municipal fees that were brought forward by the business community for consideration for deferral or waive:

- Building Permit Fees
- Planning Fees
- Development Charges (DCs)
- Business Improvement Area (BIA) Fees
- Utility fees (Water and Sewer)

After a thorough review of various fees structures, the legislation that enables them, consultation with peers and colleagues, extensive discussions, and analysis of business survey results, it has been determined that the County and the municipalities have different financial capacities and it is difficult to look at recommending waiving or deferring a particular fee structure as a whole. Many of the options reviewed include a complex legislative structure that may require studies and or public input from each respective municipality prior to enacting a change even if consensus from each of the respective Councils could be established.

As a result, the Bruce County Economic Task force encourages lower-tier municipalities to consider deferrals, discounts or incentive programs that will achieve the out-come of short-term support to local businesses across a broad spectrum.

A copy of the completed report to the Bruce County Economic Task Force that provided details on the fees is attached for your information.

Respectfully,

Kara Van Myall, Director Planning and Development / Economic Recovery, Bruce County
Chair, Bruce County Economic Task Force