






Subject: **Youth Scholarship – Idea Discussion**
 Meeting Date: Sunday, October 15, 2023
 Prepared By: Mike Haugen, CAO
 Presented By: Mike Haugen, CAO

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT: (Check all that apply)

	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
High Quality Infrastructure		Economic Resilience		Quality of Life		Effective Leadership		Level of Service	

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Provincial (cite)- NA

Council Bylaw/Policy (cite)- NA

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

Each year, Kneehill County gives out two scholarships to recent high school graduates. As part of the application process, applicants are required to submit an essay responding to a question posed by the County.

This item has been placed on the Committee of the Whole agenda to allow for discussion about the ideas raised by applicants in the 2024 process.

The 2024 question was: *“What are the challenges and opportunities for youth participation in County decisions and public engagements? What barriers do young people face, and how can these obstacles be addressed to enhance their involvement?”*

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES/OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

The essay submissions have been compiled into one document for reference by Council.

When reviewing the responses, Administration notes the applicants have put forward the ideas or themes listed below.

- Youth are often excluded from decision-making
- Youth engagement should be part of a broader diversity
- Integration into the school curriculum would be a positive
- Getting parental involvement would increase the interest level of youth
- Youth panels and organization
- Youth involvement with other communities
- Practical hands-on events
- Build relationships with and inside the schools
- Youth engagement will be better if it helps develop skills that youth can utilize in the future
- Youth engagement is impacted by lack of experience, peer pressure, frustration of not being heard, stigmas about youth opinions
- Active listening is required
- Lack of awareness and interest
- Sparking interest is key
- Awareness of impact of local government is not high. It is not seen as “interesting” or “fun”



- Awareness of opportunities can be an issue
- Needs to be “easy” in terms of work and logistics
- Information needs to be provided
- Make greater use of social media

Administration notes that lack of awareness of opportunities, the County and its impact was a common theme, as was the societal disregard of youth voices.

FINANCIAL & STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

TBD

ATTACHMENTS:

Compiled Essay Responses

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee of the Whole recommend that Council explore the following initiatives:

APPROVAL(S):

Mike Haugen, Chief Administrative Officer

Approved-

