



— **OBCM** —  
Ontario's Big City Mayors

## **Motion on Support for Small Business Enterprise Centre Funding**

Mayor Mat Siscoe – St. Catharines

**Whereas** for more than 25 years, the 47 Small Business Enterprise Centres (SBEC's) across Ontario have supported entrepreneurs and small businesses by providing the essential fundamentals, tools, and contacts they need to start and grow their businesses; and

**Whereas** 28 SBEC locations offer services in OBCM member municipalities; and

**Whereas** the Small Business Enterprise Centres, or SBEC's, are often the first stop on an entrepreneur's journey; and

**Whereas** In addition to working with entrepreneurs at the start of their journey, SBEC's are called upon to support existing businesses, typically with 10 or less employees; and

**Whereas** this support comes in the form of supporting them with growth plans, succession planning, and with recovery during difficult times; and

**Whereas**, operating funding has stagnated, impacting the ability to maintain services, diminishing the time spent with clients, time spent in the community, and involvement in local events and programming; and

**Whereas** the short-term duration of the Transfer Payment Agreements, makes budgeting and long-term planning difficult; and

**Whereas** SBEC's Transfer Payment Agreements with the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, expires on March 31, 2024

**Therefore be it resolved that** Ontario Big City Mayors request that the Province continue to fund SBECs and increase annual amounts in line with inflation and population growth.

**And further that a copy of this resolution be sent to:**

- Honourable Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation & Trade
- MPP Effie J. Triantafilopoulos, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
- MPP Andrew Dowie, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
- MPP Nina Tangri, Associate Minister of Small Business
- Stephen Rhodes, Deputy Minister for Economic Development, Job Creation & Trade
- Anne Bermonte, Assistant Deputy Minister, Innovation and Economic Partnerships Division, Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade