



**Motion on Support for Continuation of Digital Main Street Funding
Mayor Mat Siscoe – St. Catharines and Mayor Darrin Canniff - Chatham-Kent**

Whereas since 2016, the Digital Main Street program across Ontario has supported more than 87,000 entrepreneurs and small businesses by providing no cost support that includes tailored digital strategies, tools, consultations, online education, and training events; and

Whereas since 2016, the Digital Main Street program across Ontario has supported the creation of more than 3,000 jobs for youth and young adults; and

Whereas Digital Main Street supports businesses and offers services in all OBCM member municipalities; and

Whereas the Digital Main Street program has become a synchronous natural extension of the work our local municipalities and Small Business Enterprise Centers (SBECs) do to support small business, and acts harmoniously to provide support in another key area for businesses; and

Whereas In addition to working with businesses that are just at the start of their digital transformation, the Digital Main Street program offers support to businesses at any stage and within any industry; and

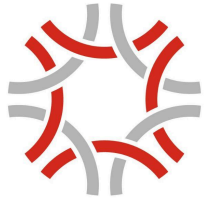
Whereas this support comes in the form of supporting them with digital transformation, new sales/revenue channels, and leveraging digital tools/technologies at every step of their journey to help their business, as well as ensure they and their clients remain secure and protected in light of the increase in cyber attacks; and

Whereas, operating funding has been discontinued, impacting the ability to maintain services, eliminating the time spent with business owners on this critical support, time spent in the community working with business owners directly; and

Whereas the uncertainty of continued funding, makes budgeting and long-term planning difficult; and

Whereas Digital Main Streets Transfer Payment Agreements with the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, expired on March 31, 2024

Therefore be it resolved that Ontario Big City Mayors request that the Province continue to fund Digital Main Street in line with the needs of our small businesses across Ontario.



— OBCM —
Ontario's Big City Mayors

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



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