

January 7, 2022

**Re: Economic Development and Tourism Strategy 2022-2026**

To Mayor Cam Guthrie and members of City Council:

The Guelph Chamber of Commerce participated as a stakeholder in the engagement activities for the Economic Development & Tourism Strategy process. The Chamber supports the vision of the Economic Development and Tourism Strategy 2022-2026 and the six strategic goals outlined in the strategy supporting a positive economic climate for businesses to launch, grow, and prosper in Guelph.

We are advocates for the expanded support for existing businesses, attracting investment that supports industry clusters and priority sectors, as well as attracting and training the kind of workers Guelph's local economy needs. Guelph has demonstrated strengths specifically in future-focused business models such as circular, social, and cooperative and needs to continue to support entrepreneurs and small businesses of all types. We believe this new strategy will signal to the business community that action is being taken to support them.

It is our hope that the Mayor and Council approve the Economic Development and Tourism Strategy 2022-2026. The Guelph Chamber of Commerce recently partnered with the City on a business census survey to help inform industry-specific COVID-19 recovery efforts and we look forward to the potential of working together again on the Municipal Accommodation Tax implementation should it be approved in February 2022. Together we can work to ensure the continued success of our local business ecosystem.

Sincerely,



Shakiba Shayani  
President & CEO, Guelph Chamber of Commerce