

September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**RE: 26-40 Carden St. and 27-39 Macdonell St. Proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments**

Mayor Cam Guthrie and members of Guelph City Council,

For over 195 years the Guelph Chamber of Commerce has been a leading champion for the Guelph business community and the issues affecting it. We have built a diverse membership of over 750 businesses by ensuring they have the resources and connections to succeed, by exemplifying community leadership, and through our advocacy work promoting the conditions that enable business success.

The lack of sufficient affordable, attainable, and suitable housing options for our community is negatively impacting the current and long-term prosperity of our community. Industry leaders consistently identify this challenge as a critical reason they are unable to attract or retain workforce.

In the past, the influx of new and returning students has strained our housing market and reduced housing options across the housing continuum. Ensuring a wide array of housing options in Guelph is vital to meeting the growing needs of our workforce, local institutions, and community.

Activities that can accelerate the increase in housing supply, by improving housing affordability and facilitating Guelph's growth should be utilized. We support the proposed amendment requests that enable Skyline's 26-40 Carden St. and 27-39 Macdonell St. planning application.

Sincerely,



Shakiba Shayani  
President and CEO, Guelph Chamber of Commerce