



August 31, 2022

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
Main Legislative Bldg. Rm 223, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A4

Re: Blueprint to Bolster Ontario's Prosperity

The Durham Business Alliance represents the eight chamber of commerce and boards of trade of Durham Region and a combined membership of approximately 2,500 local businesses and organizations. We write to you to highlight and champion for the "[Blueprint to Bolster Ontario's Prosperity](#)" prepared by the Ontario Chambers of Commerce (OCC).

As you may know, the OCC released the in-depth Blueprint focused on the economic growth and success of businesses in Ontario, their recommendations will support Ontarians out of the debilitating circumstances of the Covid-19 Pandemic. We know Ontario businesses succeed when they are supported by a strong and agile infrastructure, one that is cognizant of the needs of its constituents, but also adopts innovative and meaningful recommendations from those that know their industries and communities best.

The Blueprint respectfully offers insight and recommendations for all Ministry of Ontario departments; and outlines the challenges and potential solutions facing our province. The OCC addresses key areas of concern, including labour market challenges, administrative burdens and regulatory structures, environmental and energy policies, regional transportation, support for small businesses and entrepreneurs, and the delivery and optimization of our health care services.

The OCC's Blueprint takes a holistic and pragmatic approach to supporting Ontario and its businesses and is backed by the shared experience and perspective of OCC's 60,000 members and 157 chambers of commerce and boards of trade. The information is invaluable.

The Durham Business Alliance wholeheartedly supports the mandates set out in the Blueprint, and we believe incorporating those steps into the Government of Ontario's mandates would trailblaze Ontario into a new era, boosting our economy and strengthening our competitive edge on the national and global stage. Initiatives like:

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- Expanding Ontario’s broadband infrastructure;
- Improving regional fare integration;
- Removing barriers to interprovincial trade and labour mobility, and planning for longer-term labour market needs; and
- Expanding low-carbon transportation.

We hope that you will incorporate the OCC’s recommendations and thank you for the opportunity to represent the voice and needs of our members and stakeholders. The Durham Business Alliance looks forward to working with the Government of Ontario to support the growth and success of businesses and organizations of Durham Region and beyond.

Sincerely,

Talia Lane
President

Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade

Elizabeth Burley
President

Brock Board of Trade

Sheila Hall
Executive Director
Clarington Board of Trade

Jason King
Chief Executive Officer
Greater Oshawa Chamber of Commerce

Jane Black
President

Newcastle & District Chamber of Commerce

Karey Anne Large
Executive Director

Scugog Chamber of Commerce

Andrew Scuse
President of the Board
Whitby Chamber of Commerce

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C.C.

Mr. Lorne Coe, MPP, Whitby

Mr. John Henry, Regional Chair & CEO

Mr. Don Mitchell, Mayor Town of Whitby