



October 5th, 2022

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario;
The Honourable Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation;
The Honourable Victor Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade;
The Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure;

Dear Premier Ford, and MPP's Mulroney, Fedeli, and Surma;

Re: Blueprint to Bolster Ontario's Prosperity

The Whitby Chamber of Commerce (WCC) writes to share its support for the [Blueprint to Bolster Ontario's Prosperity](#), released by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. The Blueprint focuses on the economic growth and success of businesses in Ontario and is driven by the hard and unique realities facing Ontarians today.

Having reviewed the OCC's recommendations to each of the Ontario Government's ministers, the WCC, backed by insight from our Advocacy Committee, enthusiastically supports the blueprint and the recommendations highlighted within. In fact, the Whitby Chamber of Commerce's independent research and surveys confirm that the priorities and challenges of our members align with those highlighted in the Blueprint. More importantly, the recommendations made in the Blueprint propose policies that are pragmatic and, in our view, provide systemic and long-term solutions.

The Blueprint respectfully offers insight and recommendations in key areas of concern, including labour market challenges, administrative burdens and regulatory structures, environmental and energy policies, local and regional transportation, support for small businesses and entrepreneurs, and the delivery and optimization of our health care services.

Particularly, WCC and our Advocacy Committee support recommendations that focus on:

1. Expanding and strengthening Ontario's broadband infrastructure, which is integral to small town businesses being able to compete and succeed in the digital world.
2. Improving public transportation services for our residents to travel in Whitby, the Durham Region, and beyond in a timely and cost-efficient manner, including increasing low-carbon or carbon neutral facilities and vehicles.
3. The removal of intra-provincial barriers to trade and labour mobility which add to the cost of doing business and create arbitrary roadblocks for those working to expand on



the national or intra-provincial scale. By doing so, experts predict that Ontario's GDP would increase by \$23 billion.

The various recommendations made in the Blueprint are complementary and cooperative, highlighting the need for our ministers to collaborate and implement changes with a holistic and cross-functional approach. Keeping this in mind, we ask our Honourable MPPs to consider recommendations made to their departments considering the Blueprint as a whole. If the Ontario government's objective is a thriving and successful province offering "a place to grow", the recommendations in this Blueprint would be essential for successful government intervention.

The Covid-19 pandemic showed us that Ontarians are resilient and adaptive, and prepared to develop and strengthen our communities. If our leaders do not engage with our knowledge and adopt strategies that effectively understand and respond to our challenges, then we are not positioned for success. The WCC is grateful for the work the OCC has done to research and consolidate priorities and prepare a plan that guides all of Ontario to be more capable, connected, and competitive.

We kindly ask the Ontario government to incorporate the OCC's findings and recommendations into future policies and budgets and are here to support those endeavors. Thank you for the opportunity to represent the voice and needs of our members and stakeholders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Scuse", enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

Andrew Scuse, Board President
Whitby Chamber of Commerce

cc: MPP Lorne Coe
Regional Chair, John Henry
Mayor, Don Mitchell