

Mayor and Members of Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I'm here on behalf of The Institute of Southern Georgian Bay to provide clarity on how we plan to use the \$5,000 in Local Business Association Grant funding and more importantly, how this investment will directly benefit local businesses.

TISGB is focused on fostering a more innovative, sustainable, and resilient regional economy. With this funding, we plan to continue building on a key initiative that brings businesses together to collaborate, learn, and grow. Especially in the face of economic, social, and environmental challenges that increasingly affect our region.

Specifically, the \$5,000 will support the following:

- **Local Business Engagement:** We host a series of facilitated gatherings both in-person and virtual that bring together business owners, local leaders, and community innovators to share challenges, explore new ideas, and co-create solutions tailored to our region.
- **Knowledge Sharing & Best Practices:** We develop and distribute accessible toolkits, resources, and case studies from within our region and beyond, helping businesses implement more sustainable, inclusive, and future-focused practices.
- **Cross-Sector Collaboration:** Funding will help us expand our outreach and encourage greater participation from underrepresented businesses including those in tourism, arts, and many other industries to ensure a diverse and balanced representation of voices at the table.
- **Direct Local Impact:** Through these efforts, we aim to support businesses in becoming more adaptive and connected, spark local innovation, and strengthen the social and economic fabric of our community, now and into the future.

This grant allows us to deepen the relationships we've already built and reach new business owners who haven't had the capacity or opportunity to engage until now. It's a small investment that will help foster lasting change.

On behalf of TISGB, thank you again for your continued support and for recognizing the role local business networks play in strengthening our communities. We look forward to sharing the outcomes with you in the months ahead.