

December 17, 2025

City of Winnipeg
510 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB
R3B 1B9

Re: Financial Assistance Program for Small Businesses in Areas Undergoing Major Work

Dear Council Members:

On behalf of The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our support for the Public Service to create a framework for a Winnipeg Financial Assistance Program for Small Businesses in Areas Undergoing Major Work, modelled after Montreal's program. Many small businesses, especially those in the hospitality, retail and personal services industries, rely on foot traffic and customers having easy access to their establishments.

As the building blocks of our local economy, we must support entrepreneurs as our city continues to grow. This program has overwhelming support from Winnipeg's business community, with 82% of respondents to the Chamber's 2022 Civic Election Survey agreeing that the City should offer financial relief to small businesses negatively affected by road, sidewalk, water, or sewer construction.

As Winnipeg approaches a population of one million, the city will need to undertake significant infrastructure projects to accommodate this growth. It is critical that this growth does not come at the cost of the businesses that create jobs, attract residents, and help make Winnipeg an attractive place to live.

A healthy city and a strong business community are interdependent. Winnipeg cannot succeed without supporting both. We respectfully request that Council amend the recommendation from "receive as information" to at least allow the Public Service to draft the program and assess its implications and potential impacts.

The proposed funding would represent a relatively small portion of the approximately \$64 million the City of Winnipeg is expected to collect in business taxes this year, while providing meaningful support to businesses facing significant short-term impacts.

Thank you for your consideration of the matter.

THE WINNIPEG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Loren Remillard
President and CEO