



**ECONOMIC AND CREATIVE
DEVELOPMENT
MEMORANDUM**

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TO: DEPUTY MAYOR, B. WARD AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: N. GAVARRE, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, X4431

NOTED: D. BROOKE-BISSCHOP, MANAGER OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

S. SCHLICHTER, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AND CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

B. ARANIYASUNDARAN, P. ENG, PMP, GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT

RE: GRANT APPLICATION UPDATE FOR SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FUND SUPPORTED BY GEORGIAN COLLEGE

DATE: MAY 9, 2022

The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide members of Council with an update on the Skills Development Fund grant application submitted in December 2021 to the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development (MLTSD), by the Economic & Creative Development Department in partnership with Georgian College.

The City of Barrie has been successful in securing \$1,083,108.00 in funding to address skills development and labour shortages within the manufacturing sector.

The MLTSD has allocated \$83.3M in 2021-22, through the Skills Development Fund (SDF) to support projects that will enable market-driven solutions and unlock the economic potential of workforce development initiatives to facilitate economic recovery. The objectives of the SDF program are to:

- Ensure a resilient workforce by supporting access into the labour market and capacity-building for employers;
- Empowering workers and job seekers who face higher barriers of entry into meaningful and gainful employment; and
- Encouraging partnerships across the economy and supporting innovative ideas and training solutions.

The primary objective identified in the City's application was to specifically address industry demands for increasing the future supply to the manufacturing workforce and enabling current and new employees to access skills training and micro-credentials. In addition to the City of Barrie's partnership with Georgian College, a subsequent Stakeholder Advisory Group will be formed consisting of local industry employers and partners to help guide the programming and ensure alignment with their needs.

Program details will be released in the coming months and the funding will be in place until March 31st, 2023. Any questions can be directed to Invest Barrie.