

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Committee of the Whole (2)

DATE: Monday, December 12, 2022

**TITLE: CITY-WIDE STARTER COMPANY PLUS APPLICATION CLINIC
FOR BRICKS-AND-MORTAR SMALL BUSINESSES**

FROM:

Mayor Steven Del Duca
Councillor Adriano Volpentesta

Whereas, more than 85 per cent of businesses in the City of Vaughan are small businesses;

Whereas, Vaughan's business-oriented main streets, like Woodbridge Avenue in Ward 2, are key drivers of the city's overall small business economy;

Whereas, the City of Vaughan's Vaughan Business and Entrepreneurship Centre (VBEC) provides business advisory, education, training, mentorship, and provincial grant funding to small businesses in partnership with the Province of Ontario through Small Business Enterprise Centre (SBEC) services, seminars, Summer Company, and Starter Company Plus;

Whereas, VBEC annually resolves thousands of business inquiries, delivers hundreds of business advisory consultations, provides dozens of seminars to thousands of participants, and helps more than 200 businesses start or grow;

Whereas, VBEC's Starter Company Plus Program provides training, mentorship, and the opportunity to apply for up to \$5,000 Provincial grant to start or expand a business in Vaughan;

Whereas, as part of the City of Vaughan's Advantage Vaughan – Phase 3 of the City's Pandemic response increased the 2022/23 number of granted participants in Starter Company Plus from 23 to 58;

Whereas, up to \$65,000 in \$5,000 Starter Company Plus grants is available to small businesses to start or grow to the end of March 2023, with a minimum of \$115,000 available in 2023/24;

Whereas, VBEC staff provide frontline level service to applicants in Starter Company Plus to help them complete all forms and materials necessary for adjudication by the Regional Grant Authority (RGA);

Whereas, Vaughan's business-oriented main streets like Woodbridge Avenue are affected in the short-term by ongoing infrastructure enhancements that are key for the long-term health of the economy and that enable a climate for business success; and

Whereas, VBEC and all Economic Development staff remain committed to identifying and pursuing provincial and federal funding programs and opportunities that strengthen the local small business community.

It is therefore recommended:

1. THAT, Economic Development deliver Starter Company Plus Application Clinics monthly in each ward starting in:
 - a. Ward 2 (Woodbridge Ave) in January 2023;
 - b. Ward 3 (Weston and Hwy 7) in February 2023;
 - c. Ward 1 (Kleinburg) in March 2023;
 - d. Ward 4 (VMC and Vaughan Mills Secondary Plan area) in April 2023; and
 - e. Ward 5 (Centre St and Yonge St. Corridor) in May 2023.

Attachments

1. [Vaughan Starter Company Plus](#)
2. [STRENGTHENING AND ADVANCING SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP SERVICES](#) (March 2022)
3. [ADVANTAGE VAUGHAN: PHASE 3 OF VAUGHAN'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESPONSE TO COVID-19](#) (February 2022)
4. [ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW](#) (June 2022)
5. [SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP SERVICES: UPDATE](#) (April 2019)