

For immediate release:



## MEDIA RELEASE

# ONTARIO ANNOUNCES ENHANCED FUNDING FOR COVID-19 ECONOMIC RECOVERY NETWORK

**Stratford Perth Centre for Business Centre will benefit as part of new “Ontario Business Centres”, Ontario’s Small Business Enterprise Centre Network**

Stratford, ON – November 19, 2020... Today the Ontario Government announced an investment of over \$2.2 million through the Ontario Together Fund to provide small businesses with free, tailored financial advice and online training to help them make informed financial decisions and navigate the unprecedented economic circumstances brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The investment will provide new online resources to help entrepreneurs during COVID-19.

According to the Provincial release, Ontario is providing \$2,040,000 to support Ontario's 47 Small Business Enterprise Centres (SBEC) led by the Business Advisory Centre Durham to create a new Small Business COVID-19 Recovery Network. This network will enhance the capacity of all SBECs across the province to expand their services, supporting businesses across the province.

**City of Stratford Mayor Dan Mathieson** stated *“This is great news for our smaller main street businesses and local entrepreneurs. Stratford and areas’s many small businesses form the fabric of our City and this funding is critical to their survival during these difficult times. The support from the Ontario government will assist The Small Business Enterprise Centre Network to expand the capacity of virtual business advisory services and directly impact our entrepreneurs who employ people, and generate prosperity in our community.”*

The Stratford Perth Centre for Business operates as a department of investStratford in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. In collaboration with the Province of Ontario, the Stratford Perth Centre for Business is part of the Small Business Enterprise Centre Network and responsible for providing support for small businesses and allocates micro-grants across Stratford, St. Marys and Perth County.

For more information about the Small Business Centre Network, visit:

Ontario Business Centres: [www.ontariobusinesscentre.ca](http://www.ontariobusinesscentre.ca)

Email: [action@ontariobusinesscentre.ca](mailto:action@ontariobusinesscentre.ca)

Province of Ontario release here: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/59271/ontario-supporting-small-businesses-with-financial-advice-and-training>

-30-

### About the Stratford-Perth Centre for Business

*The Stratford Perth Centre for Business is committed to helping small business owners achieve their business goals. The Centre offers local small business support and complimentary consultation and easy access to resources, including business start-up services to support the development of new and already established small businesses. In addition to advisory services, events, seminars and training opportunities are held throughout the year to meet small business essentials. For more information visit: [stratfordperthbusiness.ca](http://stratfordperthbusiness.ca) email: [info@stratfordperthbusiness.ca](mailto:info@stratfordperthbusiness.ca) or follow on Facebook*

### For further information contact:

Elke Bidner, Marketing and Communications Lead, investStratford, 305-5055 x1003

Holly Mortimer, Business Advisor, Stratford Perth Centre for Business 519-305-5055 x1004