



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Town extends and revises COVID-19 business support programs to the end of 2022**

**Georgina, ON** – Council has approved extending COVID-19 business support programs until the end of 2022, with a number of minor modifications to expand the eligibility criteria. The programs include grants, a development application fee rebate and a temporary patio program.

“The pandemic has been challenging for everyone, especially our business community. Continuing these programs is essential to support their recovery,” said Mayor Margaret Quirk. “After two years of offering the programs, we’ve been able to modify them to best meet the business’ current needs.”

New this year, the expanded eligibility of the Community Improvement Plan’s technology stream now includes the cost of computer equipment and/or devices/subscriptions to enable e-commerce options or functionality of online business operations. It can also cover costs associated with digital marketing or consultant fees to assist with online communication.

Since 2020, the Town’s recovery support programs have assisted more than 200 businesses and not-for-profit charitable organizations to cover costs associated with COVID-19 and/or expand their operations. The extension and revision of these municipal support programs complement provincial and federal support programs being offered to help stabilize our economy.

As part of the 2022 budget, Council approved the following grant programs:

- \$40,000 is available to businesses in Georgina’s three dedicated Business Improvement Areas (BIA’s) through the COVID-19 Community Improvement Plan Program to help cover costs such as accessibility or facade enhancements and technological/digital upgrades.
- \$100,000 is available Town wide for development application fee rebates (up to \$3,000/per applicant). This \$100,000 is funded through the COVID-19 relief financial contribution provided to the municipality by the provincial government.

The Temporary Patio Program, which provided 12 dining establishments with approval to set up temporary outdoor patios, will be available to restaurants until the end of 2022, subject to the easing of provincial restrictions.

For more information about Georgina’s COVID-19 business support programs or to book a one-on-one virtual consult, visit [georgina.ca/grants](https://www.georgina.ca/grants).

For the latest information, news and updates on COVID-19 in Georgina, visit [georgina.ca/COVID-19](https://www.georgina.ca/COVID-19).