

I'm writing to you with the support of Port Colborne Council to provide feedback regarding Niagara Region's review of incentive programs, including various Community Improvement Plan (CIP) programs available to businesses within the City of Port Colborne.

The City of Port Colborne is comprised of a number of CIP areas that are connected to a number of different programs. In the most recent consultations, it was revealed that the Smarter Niagara Incentive Program (SNIP), including façade and building improvement and TIG programs, and the Smart Growth Regional DC Program, which are vital to create a vibrant economic environment within the City, were going to be eliminated. In addition, the Waterfront Revitalization Grant Program is scheduled to be eliminated as well.

These programs have made a positive impact in Port Colborne by creating opportunities to attract and leverage additional public and private sector investment, redevelop and revitalize properties, help fulfil our mandate as a City, and ensure Niagara remains an attractive and competitive place to invest.

The City of Port Colborne supports these programs and uses them in its business and investment strategies. We see the benefits in our community and in the Region through increased tax assessments, business retention and growth, public-private investment, and economic activity.

We strongly encourage the Niagara Region to reconsider the elimination of these incentive programs.

Sincerely,

Mayor William Steele