



Check Against Delivery  
April 12, 2021

**Brampton Board of Trade  
Deputation to  
The Ontario Standing Committee on Finance  
re: Bill 269 (2021 Budget)  
Todd Letts, CEO, Brampton Board of Trade**

Thank you to the Chair and Committee. The Brampton Board of Trade connects, advocates and empowers its members to succeed. Board of Trade members employ over 45,000 in our city. Put in context, members provide 1 in every 3 jobs within the city of Brampton.

Bill 269 (The 2021 budget) prioritizes important investments for Brampton. Specifically, investments in regional transit, local healthcare and more support for businesses impacted by the heavy burden of pandemic operating restrictions. We thank the government for these allocations.

Of particular interest to the Brampton business community are:

**The Commitment to an inpatient wing at Peel Memorial:** The pandemic has had a disproportionately negative impact on Brampton. Even before the pandemic, there was and continues to be significant strain on the local health system.

Bill 269 earmarks expansion for Peel Memorial. Currently, Peel Memorial, which opened in 2017, is an urgent care centre that provides a range of day procedures and outpatient services. To support the transformation of Peel Memorial into a new hospital, this budget will allow construction of over 250 net new beds at the site. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2023. The Province is also providing up to \$18 million in 2021-22 to expand the urgent care centre to 24/7 operations, eventually paving the way for an emergency department as Peel Memorial expands to an inpatient hospital.

**We also appreciate the financial support for Planning a Brampton Medical Institute:** The passing of Bill 269 provides financial support to Ryerson University in preparing a proposal for a new institute of medical education in Brampton. The Brampton Board of Trade strongly supports this investment. Our organization works closely with Ryerson, Algoma and Sheridan on a united vision to expand the post-secondary footprint in Brampton. The 2021 budget's allocation helps allow the next generation of health care practitioners to train locally in our city.

**Thank you also for the significant investment toward Two-way, All-day GO train service:** The 2021 budget's investment of \$61.6 billion in public transit over 10 years, includes allocation to

increase capacity for more trains to travel the innovation corridor from Waterloo Region to downtown Toronto. This is a very wise investment. Because Brampton is located at the centre of the corridor, fast, frequent, two-way all day GO train service allows local employers to draw on a larger talent pool.

We look to further allocations in next year's budget to fully implement Metrolinx business case for this corridor.

**Bill 269 also allows 2021 Budget allocations that:**

- Support workers and families by introducing a temporary Ontario Jobs Training Tax Credit
- Enhance the temporary CARE tax credit, helping parents return to the workforce by making childcare more accessible and affordable.
- Will attract jobs and business investment in the manufacturing tech and life science sectors through the Invest Ontario Fund.
- Thanks also for the recovery and rebuild support through the Ontario Hospitality and Tourism Small Business Support Grant

I wanted to also express thanks on behalf of our business community, for the 2021 budget allocation that doubles the Ontario Small Business Support Grant. This is particularly welcome now, when recent data shows that more than 3300 businesses are at high risk of bankruptcy in Brampton, more than 13,500 are at high risk of becoming delinquent with their financial institution and more than 14,500 are at high risk of being unable to pay their suppliers. The doubling of the Ontario Small Business Support Grant, without an additional application process for those already receiving the first grant, is sensitive to the seriousness of the need in our business community. Thank you for that.

In all, the 2021 Ontario budget provides hope during a very difficult time for businesses and our economy. Putting priority on immediate relief for those businesses impacted by the pandemic; while also making significant allocations to health care, post-secondary expansion and regional transit is good for Brampton. The 2021 budget is comprehensive in its support of the current and long-term needs of our community.

Thank you to the committee and we encourage you to pass Bill 269.

**ABOUT BRAMPTON BOARD OF TRADE** Serving the community for over 130 years, Brampton Board of Trade is the go-to organization where businesses of all sectors, convene, collaborate, and create solutions to boost regional economic prosperity. The Brampton Board of Trade's members employ over 45,000 in our city. Together, members provide solutions to the toughest problems that businesses face every day including overcoming barriers to growth, attracting, and retaining talent and making the right connections.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Todd Letts, CEO, 416-457-4331, [tletts@bramptonbot.com](mailto:tletts@bramptonbot.com)