



Office of the Mayor – *Mitch Panciuk*

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October 14, 2021

Premier Doug Ford

Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance

Honourable Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

**RE: Launch of South Eastern Ontario Production Accelerator Fund (SEOPAF)**  
**Re: implementation of a NEW film stream fund within the EODF**

Dear Premier Ford and Ministers Fedeli and Bethlenfalvy,

Belleville is a unique mix of small-town charm with big-city amenities. Our city has something for everyone with a thriving local-first culture. The City of Belleville strongly supports the establishment of the South Eastern Ontario Production Accelerator Fund (SEOPAF). The SE Ontario region has all of the resources necessary to be the NEXT centre of excellence and is primed for this initiative.

The Ontario government's implementation of SEOPAF will accelerate regional sector capacity and job growth and bring new revenue. It's a bold initiative – focused on regional growth where it is **most** needed (as per government studies 2009-2019).

In creating a new film stream fund within an existing regional fund like the EODF, government builds on an existing success model. The "success" proof is the positive regional impact of a screen-based fund in the North, where a stackable incentive was specially set up as a film stream fund within NOHFC nearly two decades ago. That Northern film stream created a sustainable \$100M+ year-over-year industry with an impressive 5:1 ROI.

Our Council is in full support of the SEOPAF as an initiative that presents a clear plan for much needed economic growth in this region. The SEOPAF will amplify opportunities, build capacity regionally and create job diversity and training for our college graduates while generating year round revenue for hard hit sectors.

The SEOPAF Proposal effectively knits together many individual municipal requests from across this region - over many years. Please give the SEOPAF - a bold initiative for regional economic recovery - full consideration for implementation in upcoming Budget decisions.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mitch Panciuk". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mayor Mitch Panciuk  
Head of Council and CEO  
Corporation of the City of Belleville