



SEOPAF Letter of Support

November 25, 2021

ATTN:

Premier Doug Ford

Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, MPP Leeds, Grenville, Thousand Islands

Honourable Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries

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)
via implementation of a NEW film stream fund within the EODF

Dear Premier Ford and Ministers Bethlenfalvy and Fedeli,

The 1000 Islands Gananoque Chamber of Commerce is the “Voice of Business” for the Township of Leeds & the Thousand Islands and Town of Gananoque. As the leading member organization of advocacy in the region, we are consistently active in lobbying on our region’s behalf to ensure our communities are open for business and inviting to new investment and economic growth. On behalf of almost 200 members, **we** support the establishment of the South Eastern Ontario Production Accelerator Fund (SEOPAF).

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). South Eastern Ontario.

Our Chamber Board are 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 across diverse sectors.

In creating a new film stream fund within an existing regional fund like the EODF, the government will build 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. We believe our region can match or exceed that return.

Please give the SEOPAF - a bold initiative for regional economic recovery - full consideration for implementation in upcoming Budget decisions. The SE Ontario region has all of the resources necessary to be the NEXT centre of excellence and is primed for this initiative.

Sincerely,

Bill Stewart, Executive Director

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