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“Voice of Business”
Since 1906

March 16, 2022

SEOPAF Letter of Support

ATTN:

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

Dear Premier Ford and Ministers Bethlenfalvy and Fedeli,

The Brockville and District Chamber of Commerce has been the Voice of Business in the area since 1906. We support and grow business to build a strong economic community through proactive leadership in advocacy and relevant programming. On behalf of the Board of Directors and our membership of over 300 members we support the establishment of the South Eastern Ontario Production Accelerator Fund (SEOPAF) via implementation of a NEW film stream fund within the EODF

SEOPAF is an initiative that presents a clear plan to produce regional revenue and bolster economic growth. And SEOPAF focusses regional growth where it is **most** needed (as per government studies 2009-2019). South Eastern Ontario.

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, 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. We believe our region can match or exceed that return.

The Ontario government’s implementation of SEOPAF will accelerate regional sector capacity and job growth and bring new revenue.

Please give SEOPAF - a bold initiative for much needed regional economic recovery - full policy consideration 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.

Respectfully,

Pamela Robertson
Executive Director
Brockville and District Chamber of Commerce