



MEDIA RELEASE

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF FORT ERIE
1 Municipal Centre Drive
Fort Erie, ON
L2A 2S6

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT: Janine Tessmer, Communications Advisor

TELEPHONE: 905-871-1600, ext. 2217

Town Council Asks Region to Continue Financially Supporting CIPs

On October 10, Councillor Marina Butler made a motion addressing Regional Council's temporary suspension of partnership funding to its Smart Niagara Incentive Program (SNIP). The program was officially suspended on September 14, 2017, by Regional Council due to budgetary constraints.

Since 2014, the Town of Fort Erie has been implementing and administering financial grants through its Downtown Core Area Community Improvement Programs (CIPs). The Region has been supporting the CIPs by matching dollars contributed by the Town. The partnership funding was being made available through SNIP.

"Our Community Improvement Programs have been gaining a lot of momentum since they were first launched three years ago," said Councillor Marina Butler. "The motion was made to ensure the Region was aware that their financial contributions are important to continuing this momentum."

The Town offers business and property owners (located in eligible downtown core areas) with three CIP grant opportunities 1) Commercial Facade Improvement Grant Program; 2) Residential Creation and Intensification Grant Program; and, 3) Commercial Signage Grant Program. Since the program launched it has resulted in 27 completed projects in the core areas of Bridgeburg and Ridgeway. In addition, there are six active projects with another eight who have completed the pre-consultation stage with intention to submit applications.

Councillor Butler's motion acknowledged the positive impact that the program has had on revitalizing Fort Erie's downtown cores; and requested that Regional Council include funding in its upcoming budget for the continuation of this program throughout 2018.

"The success of the Region's SNIP and our CIPs speak for themselves. These programs have helped revitalize not only our downtowns, but also downtown areas throughout Niagara," said Mayor Wayne Redekop. "Many municipalities are testaments to the positive impact these programs have had since their inception. As a whole, we can all benefit from the increased assessment of newly renovated commercial properties and the creation of new rental units above store fronts in Niagara."

For more information about Fort Erie CIPs, please contact Chris Millar, Neighbourhood Planner at 905-871-1600, ext. 2503 or cmillar@forterie.ca.