



November 22, 2024

Mayor Boddy and Council  
City of Owen Sound  
808 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. E.  
Owen Sound, Ontario  
N4K 2H4

Dear Mayor Boddy and Members of Council:

On behalf of the Owen Sound & District Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our organization's strong support for the Glassworks Co-operative and their proposed development of 300-400 affordable homeownership units at 1915 26<sup>th</sup> Street East. This project represents a critical opportunity to address the ongoing housing crisis that has severely impacted the economic vitality of Owen Sound and the greater Grey-Bruce region.

As you are aware, the shortage of affordable housing continues to pose significant challenges for businesses and organizations across our community. Many employers, particularly major institutions struggle to recruit and retain staff due to the lack of accessible housing options. This issue is felt acutely across a wide spectrum of industries, from healthcare and education to retail and manufacturing, creating barriers to growth and economic stability.

The Glassworks Co-operative's commitment to serving households with incomes between \$35,000 and \$85,000 is particularly important. By ensuring at least 180 units are designated for this demographic, the project will directly address the gap in housing availability for working families and professionals. With its proximity to public transportation and major employers, the Glassworks Village is ideally situated to provide much-needed workforce housing.

We see this project as more than a housing solution – it's an investment in the future of our community. Affordable homeownership opportunities will enable businesses to attract skilled workers, support employee retention, and foster a vibrant local economy. Additionally, the increase in property tax revenue and disposable income from new residents will benefit Owen Sound's municipal services and businesses alike.

The Chamber is committed to advocating for initiatives that strengthen our local economy and improve the quality of life for residents. We believe the Glassworks Co-operative development aligns perfectly with these goals, and we urge the council to prioritize and support this critical project.



We commend your ongoing efforts to address the housing crisis and remain confident that together we can build a stronger, more sustainable Owen Sound.

Warm regards,

Diane Austin, CEO  
Owen Sound & District Chamber of Commerce  
[diane@oschamber.com](mailto:diane@oschamber.com)  
519-376-6261