

**Associate Minister of Small Business**

**Ministry of Economic Development,  
Job Creation and Trade**

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**Ministre associée déléguée aux Petites Entreprises**

**Ministère du Développement économique,  
de la Création d'emplois et du Commerce**

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June 23, 2026

Rachel Braithwaite  
Executive Director  
Ontario Business Improvement Area Association  
[Rachel@obiaa.com](mailto:Rachel@obiaa.com)

Dear Rachel Braithwaite:

Thank you for your letter regarding the role of small businesses in the Vibrant Downtowns initiative. I appreciate hearing your ideas on bringing small business perspectives to planning issues and ensuring appropriate supports are in place.

The Ontario government recognizes that small businesses and entrepreneurs are critical to Ontario's long-term prosperity, driving innovation, creating jobs, and keeping local communities strong.

Through key actions taken since 2018, such as direct supports, tax and cost relief measures, and modernization programs, the government will enable nearly \$10 billion in estimated cost savings and support for Ontario businesses in 2026, of which \$4.8 billion would go to small businesses.

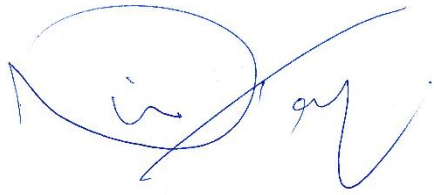
In addition, Ontario's network of Small Business Enterprise Centres continues to help entrepreneurs modernize operations, manage costs, and strengthen their resilience in the face of global uncertainty.

I appreciate the thoughtful insights presented by the Ontario Business Improvement Area Association regarding small businesses operating in downtown commercial districts. These insights will inform the ministry's approach to advocating for small business interests with government partners and stakeholders.

I appreciate your offer to discuss these recommendations further and recognize the value of ongoing dialogue between government and small business leaders. Our office will remain in contact regarding future opportunities for engagement.

Once again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nina Tangri', written in a cursive style.

Nina Tangri  
Associate Minister of Small Business