

"This investment of \$2.3 million that includes 11 new projects and the expansion of 6 existing initiatives is welcome news for our Sandwich Town community. These investments will have a real impact on capital priorities, programming and organizations who service Sandwich Town residents and families. It is these types of investments that improve our neighbourhoods and the quality of life for many, and for that alone I am extremely grateful."

- Fabio Costante, City of Windsor Council Member, Ward 2

"This announcement is a prime example of what authentic, sustained community engagement can yield. WDBA and Bridging North America's continued investment in the communities on both sides of the border continue to be driven by feedback from, and in response to the needs of, frontline residents. I am proud of our residents for their continued engagement and advocacy and can't wait to see the impact these new projects will have on the Delray and southwest Detroit communities."

- Gabriela Santiago-Romero, City of Detroit Council Member, District 6

"Windsor Essex Community Benefit Coalition is a collection of individuals and organizations dedicated to the improvement of their community and quality of work. With each year's announcement of grant support from the Gordie Howe International Bridge and Bridging North America, it is impressive to see the progress each of these projects has been able to accomplish. This year again raises the high bar of positive community impact. It is encouraging to see Indigenous and marginalized groups, youths and people of all ages benefit from this year's grants.

Two things are of note:

1. the practical support of Sandwich Town businesses as they are impacted by the improved streetscaping of Sandwich Street. The village of small, family run businesses realistically needs the support through this construction period and will greatly benefit from the streetscaping for many years.
2. the intent of several of the grant organizations to invite the local community to participate in and benefit from the grants. This is where people meet and community relationships are built.

Again, many thanks to the individuals who have led the way and followed through on the promises of Community Benefits. Like Detroit, Toronto and many moderate sized cities, we look forward to the principles of Community Benefits being adopted and benefiting the lives of citizens."

- Mike Cardinal, Chair, Windsor-Essex Community Benefits Coalition

"We are excited to see these new community benefits programs receiving funding support through the Neighborhood Infrastructure Strategy of the Gordie Howe International Bridge. Recipients will be implementing an array of initiatives that will directly serve families in the Delray and Southwest Detroit impact area. The over \$2 million investment is another welcome and important undertaking by the project team and we look forward to seeing the projects come to life in an area of so much need."

- Simone Sagovac, Representative, Southwest Detroit Community Benefits Coalition

"Supporting the organization of a Pow Wow in partnership with local Indigenous organizations and St. Clair College will bring our Windsor-Essex community together to share and celebrate Indigenous culture. We are also very excited to celebrate and honour Indigenous alumni of both post-secondary institutions, as they are role models for our youth to encourage them to strive for higher education. Pow Wows are ways to come together in song and dance and are based upon fundamental values common (i.e., honour, respect, tradition and generosity) to Indigenous peoples throughout Turtle Island. We look forward to cohosting and sharing our culture and pow wow traditions to all. With the contribution of Gordie Howe's Community Benefits Grant, we will ensure this remains a free community event with a traditional feast to share with all."

- Dr. Beverly Jacobs, Office of the President, University of Windsor

"Our March Break and Summer Camps are pivotal opportunities for our Indigenous youth to connect with our campus at the University of Windsor. We look forward to hosting these each year and the support from these funds will enrich their experiences as we continue to build a culturally supportive environment during their educational journey."

- Kat Pasquach, Turtle Island – Aboriginal Education Centre, University of Windsor

"Puente specializes in helping immigrant entrepreneurs formalize their business practices, including networking and vending events, financial education and bilingual marketing strategies. The Community Benefits Plan funding will allow us to create the infrastructure and programming to support a large number of Spanish-speaking entrepreneurs in Southwest Detroit have equitable access to resources and opportunities. The Bilingual Bridge for Businesses (BB4B) will be providing weekly drop-in coaching sessions, monthly and quarterly bilingual workshop series and events, as well as collaborative marketing for hundreds of small business owners, most of whom are Spanish-speaking immigrants living in Southwest Detroit."

- Bridget B. Espinosa, CEO/Founder, Puente Cultural Integration, LLC

"ERCA is so grateful to partner with the Community Benefits Plan to make an environmental impact in Sandwich Town. As a result of this partnership to date, 350 volunteers participated in 10 stewardship events, adding 140 trees and shrubs to the landscape while removing 2034 lbs of litter from this Detroit River watershed. This continuation of support will facilitate more environmental improvements in the Town of Sandwich."

- Tim Byrne, CAO, Essex Region Conservation Authority

"The Greening of Detroit is pleased to be a partner of the Gordie Howe International Bridge Community Benefits Plan, continuing to work with Southwest Detroit residents creating a greener community. The Greening of Detroit is excited to bring our Tree Keepers Kids program to Southwest Detroit providing students with the guidance, materials and the tools necessary to restore greenspaces through planting trees and environmental education programs."

- Lionel Bradford, President and CEO, The Greening of Detroit

"WDBA and Bridging North America have stepped up as responsible corporate leaders in our community, partnering in the Sandwich Towne / west Windsor area. The community benefits will provide a much-needed impact to grassroots community agencies such as STAG, assisting our organization with providing 'at risk youth' along with low-income families the services and programs needed to lead healthy lives."

- John Elliott, Executive Director, Sandwich Teen Action Group

"The Olde Sandwich Towne BIA appreciates this Community Benefits initiative. We proposed four projects that we feel will aid us in our mission to the Business Community and the greater Community of Sandwich. The BIA is to undergo a street improvement this year and we will be able to develop a strategy to aid the businesses to thrive both during construction and after. We will also be able to beautify or streetscape with planters and replacement of community infrastructure. Last but not least, we will be able to enhance our signature events - The Market and Miracle in Sandwich which benefit the businesses and the greater community."

- Mary Ann Cuderman, Past Chair, Sandwich Business Improvement Area

"The Association of Francophone Communities of Ontario - Windsor-Essex, Chatham-Kent (ACFO WECK) is thrilled to have the opportunity to relocate the Tri-Centenary monument from east Windsor to a new site in Sandwich West. This opportunity will ensure that visitors and locals alike have the opportunity to connect, learn, and enjoy a part of our local history, while additional QR codes, a plaque, and events will showcase the monument. Visitors will be able to learn more about the Francophone community that has maintained its presence in Sandwich West, Windsor, and the Straits of Detroit since 1701. Through this initiative with the Gordie Howe International Bridge - Community Benefits Plan, this project will enliven the culture and heritage of the Francophone community to continue to shine."

- Michel Brassard, Agent de communication, The Association of Francophone Communities of Ontario - Windsor-Essex, Chatham-Kent (ACFO WECK)

"The Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation (DHDC) is very excited about this funding opportunity through the Gordie Howe International Bridge project team. This funding will allow us to expand our programming and the age groups we serve in Southwest Detroit and surrounding communities, to include youth in grades K-5th in our overall programs. Our goal with this project is to integrate a STEM pipeline from K-12th and beyond, offering youth an avenue for exploration and creativity, while learning and having fun through after-school and summer programming!"

- Sandy Gaytan, Director of Youth Development, Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation (DHDC)

“The SDBA’s Small Business Development Center was created to support local small business owners by providing access to the tools and resources to help them succeed. From family-owned mercados and restaurants to construction companies and skilled trades services, our Small Business Development Center offers business owners bilingual (Spanish/English) technical assistance, innovative tools, coaching and counseling, advocacy, training, and access to new technology. We are very grateful to WDBA and BNA for its generous support of this business resource in our community.”

- Laura Chavez-Wazeerud-Din, Vice President of Programs & Compliance, Southwest Detroit Business Association