

# COMMUNITY BENEFITS



PONT INTERNATIONAL  
**Gordie Howe**  
INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE

## QUARTERLY REPORT SUMMER 2025

The Community Benefits Plan is a key component of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project. With a commitment to transparent and accountable implementation, the project team is proud to report on Community Benefit Plan activities and accomplishments each quarter. For more information on Community Benefits Plan initiatives visit [GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com](https://GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com).

## NEIGHBOURHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

With the support of Community Benefits Plan funding, non-profit and charitable organizations in Sandwich/west Windsor and Delray/Southwest Detroit are delivering programming and community infrastructure improvements, resulting in positive benefits for local community members.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

### Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation: Uniting the West End Afterschool Program

The Community Benefits Plan continues to invest in young people in the heart of the Sandwich/west Windsor community. In partnership with McBride Youth United, Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation (WECHC) received funding to support educational afterschool opportunities and neighbourhood beautification efforts. In July, the programs launched with a community block party to celebrate the installation of new soccer nets, a community garden and a mural that recognized the neighbourhood's culture and history. To develop the mural, WECHC prioritized a need for community engagement and integration of feedback into the artist selection process. Daniel Bombardier, aka "Denial," local to west Windsor, was selected as the successful artist, with an intention to pay homage to the community.



*Home is More Than a House* – Daniel Bombardier aka "Denial."

Teaming up with Sandwich Team Action Group (STAG) and the Art Windsor Essex (AWE) Sandwich Visionaries program, multiple engagement sessions were held with youth ages seven to 18. The groups conversed with Daniel and provided creative drawings, words and images on a paper template that featured a photo of the mural's future home. This feedback inspired a framework for the mural titled, *Home is More Than a House*. The young participants expressed a dominant theme highlighting strong female African-Canadian voices. Daniel used this theme to create the mural's centerpiece as an outward expression of the community. Young people visited the mural during its development to learn from Daniel, leaving a lasting impact on the community closest to the Gordie Howe International Bridge project for generations to come.

We acknowledge that the Sandwich community and land in Canada where the Gordie Howe International Bridge is being constructed sits on Anishinaabe Territory. The Anishinaabeg in the Windsor area are known as the Three Fires Confederacy which consists of the Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi Nations. This land has also served as a place of refuge for the Huron/Wendat people.

## Aboriginal Education Centre - Turtle Island (University of Windsor): Pow Wow and Youth Camps

Supporting local Indigenous communities in Canada remains a priority for the Gordie Howe International Bridge project. Funding was provided to the Turtle Island Summer Camp for high school students guided by various University of Windsor representatives. In addition, the 4th Annual Alumni & Student Pow Wow was held at the University of Windsor in May. This one-day event brought over 800 students, alumni, Indigenous community members and visitors together for an enriching cultural celebration.



Indigenous dancer participating in the 4th Annual Alumni & Student Pow Wow.

## Southwest Detroit Community Development Corporation: Southwest Detroit Community Food and Wellness

Improving the health and wellbeing of residents and families in Delray/Southwest Detroit is important to the Southwest Detroit Community Development Corporation (SDCDC). SDCDC's Community Benefits Plan funding focuses on food distribution, preparation, education and health and fitness for seniors and unhoused individuals. Eight Neighbourhood Nights were held from June to August with a goal of feeding 500 participants. The evenings also included social games. By enhancing food security and socialization, residents have access to health-driven community resources.

## LOCAL HISTORY & CULTURE

### Inside Southwest Detroit: Luz y Sonido

Inside Southwest Detroit (ISWD) seeks to enhance creative arts educational opportunities in schools through afterschool extra-curricular programming. Facilitated by teachers, students participate in creative visual and performing arts activities. In May, a photography program for adolescents ages 15-25 launched with a PopUp Portrait Studio at the annual Blessing of the Lowriders event. This event was held by ISWD, Motor City Street Dance Academy and local partners to celebrate cars, culture, faith and community with approximately 300 attendees.

## COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CONNECTIONS

Active transportation connections from the Gordie Howe International Bridge project to communities continue to grow. With Community Benefits funding, construction of the new Broadway Street multi-use path and trailhead at Malden Park in Windsor occurred over the summer. This new path provides a link for cross-border cyclists and pedestrians to access the Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway Trail and broader Trans Canada Trail System. In addition, new bike racks designed by a St. Clair College student have been installed at the trailhead, reflecting an abstract concept of the Gordie Howe International Bridge towers.



The unveiling of the Malden Park trailhead.

## ECONOMIC BENEFITS AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

### Accounting Aid Society: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program

The Accounting Aid Society aims to improve the financial wellbeing of Southwest Detroit residents and businesses through multiple programs. Their Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers no-cost, bilingual tax preparation for more than 2200 low-to moderate-income households. Their Accounting Aid Academy program provided 33 one-on-one services to 12 micro-business owners and participated in five small business events, reaching 197 business owners.



Volunteer Income Tax Assistance group.



## 2025 Community Organization Investments

The Gordie Howe International Bridge team recently released the final \$300,000 (CDN) of Community Organization Investment funding to 14 recipients in Canada and the US. Since launching in 2020, \$1 million (CDN) in small grants has been provided to 67 projects led by local non-profits, making lasting positive enhancements in the Sandwich and Delray communities.

### OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Between April and August 2025, the project team:

- Engaged students at Riverside High School, Herman Secondary School and Eastview Horizon through project presentations
- Presented at the 2025 Community Benefits Summit in Toronto
- Participated in the launch of the Windsor Port Authority Cultural Pier
- Presented to the Sandwich Environmental Tour held by Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA)
- Attended the Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation Community Block Party to celebrate new soccer nets, community garden and mural
- Hosted a virtual information session for the 2025 Community Organization Investment recipients
- Attended Art Windsor-Essex launch of the Camp Freedom at Midnight Art Exhibit
- Participated in the Michigan Construction Science Expo
- Supported the Friends of the Court unveiling of the Mary E. Bibb Park Gateway Arch
- Participated in the Art Windsor-Essex Night Light launch



Volunteers at the ERCA Sandwich litter clean-up in July.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

CUMULATIVE TOTALS FROM SEPTEMBER 2018 TO JUNE 2025



**14,870+**

individuals  
oriented to  
the project in  
Canada and  
the US

**41%**  
are local\*



**435+**

co-op  
students  
assigned to  
the project



**290+**

local\* businesses  
engaged on the  
project



**830+**

pre-apprentices/  
apprentices  
assigned to the  
project



\*“Local” is defined as  
being within the City  
of Detroit or within  
100 kilometres of the  
City of Windsor

Between January 2021  
and June 2025, over

**\$8.3  
million**

(CAD) was spent on  
small-scale purchases  
under \$25,000 from  
local\* businesses.

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Installation of custom bike racks at the US Port of Entry
- Installation of Windsor-Detroit Cross-River Tour interpretive signs in Canada and US
- Allocation of remaining Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy funding.

**THE GORDIE HOWE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE** is here to move people and goods across the Detroit River. It connects more than businesses and communities. It creates possibilities. By evolving to meet customer needs with sustainable operations, the bridge will be an accelerator for international trade and make a powerful difference now and for future generations. A key project element is the inclusion of a Community Benefits Plan.

The project consists of four components:



THE BRIDGE



CANADIAN PORT  
OF ENTRY



US PORT  
OF ENTRY



MICHIGAN  
INTERCHANGE

## ABOUT COMMUNITY BENEFITS

On the Gordie Howe International Bridge project, **community benefits are identified opportunities that can advance economic, social or environmental conditions for local communities.** In developing the Community Benefits Plan, it was key that the initiatives selected for implementation would provide positive outcomes for the Windsor-Detroit region and specifically focus on enhancing the Sandwich and Delray communities, the neighbourhoods closest to the project area.

Community benefits initiatives are delivered by the project team, a collaboration between Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority, Bridging North America and the State of Michigan.

The Community Benefits Plan has two components:



**THE NEIGHBOURHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY** focuses on collaborating with stakeholders and community members through consultation to develop and implement a community betterments strategy based on priorities identified through public consultation, including: community partnerships, community safety and connections, economic benefits and business development, aesthetics, landscaping and green initiatives, local history and culture, tourism, and food security and wellness.



**THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION STRATEGY** is geared toward engaging businesses and individuals and focuses on supporting workforce, training and pre-apprenticeship/apprenticeship opportunities.

Alternative formats of this document can be requested by contacting the project team.

**For more information about the progress of the Community Benefits Plan connect with us:**

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