
Subject: FW: Securing Small Business Rebate Funding Program - Calling on the Province of BC to Renew the Program
Attachments: Securing Small Business Rebates.pdf
Importance: High

From: Colleen Van Mook [Redacted]
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2025 4:52 PM
To: Eoin Foley [Redacted]; Mayor Yu, Simon <Simon.Yu@princegeorge.ca>; John Zukowski [Redacted]; Councillor Skakun, Brian <Brian.Skakun@princegeorge.ca>; Councillor Polillo, Ron <Ron.Polillo@princegeorge.ca>; miranda.seymour [Redacted]; Councillor Klassen, Trudy <Trudy.Klassen@princegeorge.ca>; Councillor Bennett, Tim <Tim.Bennett@princegeorge.ca>; Councillor Ramsay, Cori <Cori.Ramsay@princegeorge.ca>; Councillor Sampson, Kyle <Kyle.Sampson@princegeorge.ca>; Councillor Scott, Susan <Susan.Scott@princegeorge.ca>; Councillor Frizzell, Garth <Garth.Frizzell@princegeorge.ca>; darin.rappel@rcmp-grc.gc.ca
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Subject: Securing Small Business Rebate Funding Program - Calling on the Province of BC to Renew the Program
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Dear Mayor & Council and Members of the Mayor's Select Committee on Public Safety:

REQUEST:

On behalf of the small businesses in our downtown and Prince George community, I am requesting that the City of Prince George and the Public Safety committee consider joining my colleagues in other BIA's and Chambers to call on the Province of BC to renew the **Securing Small Business Rebate Program**.

Other municipalities are being asked to advocate to the Provincial Government on behalf of business. Please see an example of a motion being taken by the City of New Westminster:

MOTION SUBMITTED: Securing Small Business Rebate Funding Renewal

WHEREAS In Fall of 2023, The Province of British Columbia launched the Securing Small Business Rebate program to provide small businesses with up to \$2,000 for eligible commercial property crime and vandalism repairs or up to \$1,000 to implement eligible preventative measures.

WHEREAS The Securing Small Business Rebate Program is now closed and The New Westminster Chamber and The Downtown Business Improvement Association have expressed interest for The Province to renew program funding to support the local business community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Mayor and Council send a letter to Honourable Diana Gibson, Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation, with a copy to all New Westminster Members of the Legislative Assembly, asking that the Securing Small Business Rebate Program funding be renewed

BACKGROUND:

In the late Fall of 2023 after much advocacy from the Business Improvement Areas of BC and the BC Chambers of Commerce, the Province of BC launched the Securing Small Business Rebate Funding Program.

This program recognized the increased costs to businesses due to property crime and vandalism in rural and urban communities across the province. At the time the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation introduced the \$10.5 million Securing Small Business Rebate Program, to provide small businesses with funds for eligible commercial property crime and vandalism repairs, or to implement eligible preventative measures.

The initial launch was fraught with barriers, so the Program had to be revamped and was reintroduced in late March of 2024. Due to this initial confusion and a very difficult application process, it is believed that millions of dollars were left on the table. BIABC has been advocating for these dollars to be re-allocated in order to help small businesses remain viable and whole in the wake of increased crime and vandalism in our communities. We are asking the City of Prince George to join those efforts.

We are aware that only a handful of Prince George Businesses were able to benefit from this grant to date – we estimate that less than \$25,000 went back into the pockets of victimized businesses. Myself and Neil Godbout of the Prince George Chamber of Commerce, we get the support of City Council to give our Prince George Businesses more time to recoup losses from vandalism and provide funding towards preventative measures for the future.

I would be delighted to share more information at the March 18th Public Safety meeting in hopes of gaining support from that committee and ultimately the support of City Council.

Sincerely,

Colleen Van Mook
Executive Director
Downtown Prince George
1406 2nd Avenue Prince George, BC V2L 3B6

Redacted

OFFICE PHONE: 250-614-1330

We acknowledge that we are on the ancestral lands of the unceded territory of the Lheidli T'enneh where we live, work and play.

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SECURING SMALL BUSINESS REBATE

Apply Now!



What you Need to Know

The Securing Small Business Rebate Program is ready to help small businesses with vandalism-related costs and to install measures to prevent future vandalism.

The streamlined application portal will be accepting applications until January 31, 2025 from businesses looking to offset the costs of repairing or preventing vandalism.

Types of Rebates Available

Reparative Rebate

- Provides immediate relief to offset expenses for damage to eligible commercial property due to crime and vandalism on or after January 1, 2023.
- Available as a one-time rebate of **up to \$2,000, for each of 2023 and 2024.**
- Retroactive to January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2024.
- Examples of eligible damage include: Broken windows, locks and doors, and graffiti.

Preventative Rebate

- Provides funding for eligible proactive/preventative measures to mitigate vandalism damage against eligible commercial property.
- Available as a one-time rebate of **up to \$1,000.**
- Retroactive to January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2024.
- Examples of eligible measures include installation of: Shatterproof glass, locks, cameras, alarms, security lighting and gates.

For more information, FAQs, and to apply for a rebate, visit the program webpage: www.bcchamber.org/securing-small-business-rebate

