



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Downtown Belleville District BIA Secures Provincial Funding for the Welcoming Streets Program**

Belleville, Ontario, February 14, 2024- The Downtown Belleville District Business Improvement Area (BIA) is proud to announce its successful application for the *Community Safety and Policing* grant through the Belleville Police Services. This grant for \$384,000.00 will provide vital support to the BIA's award-winning Welcoming Streets Program, ensuring its continued operation for the next two years.

The Welcoming Streets Program, recognized for its innovative approach, operates within the vibrant heart of Belleville's downtown core. It serves as a beacon of assistance, actively supporting local businesses facing unknown circumstances and individuals experiencing challenges associated with mental health, substance use, and/or homelessness.

Historically, the Welcoming Streets Program received funding from Hastings County in 2021 and 2022, and from the City of Belleville in 2023, demonstrating ongoing support from local authorities.

“The Belleville Police Service is very pleased to work in partnership with Welcoming Streets Belleville to ensure that this program continues to support our community during a very challenging time.” Says Mike Callaghan, Chief of Belleville Police Service. “The relationship we share is a symbiotic relationship and we are grateful for their community engagement to ensure we are a progressive community.”

The *Community Safety and Policing* grant provides police services with the necessary tools and resources to assist community initiatives when they are needed most. The Ministry of the Solicitor General and the *Community Safety and Policing* grant represents a crucial step forward in securing sustainable



funding for the program, ensuring its continued effectiveness in addressing community needs.

"We are deeply grateful for the support provided by the *Community Safety and Policing* grant and the Belleville Police Services" says Sara Behring, Director of Community Outreach, Welcoming Streets. "This funding ensures the continuity of our Welcoming Streets Program, which plays a pivotal role in fostering a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment within our downtown community."

While this funding allows the Welcoming Streets Program to continue its critical work, the Downtown Belleville District BIA remains committed to seeking additional grant and partnership opportunities. These opportunities will enable the expansion of the program to include more outreach workers, addressing the evolving needs of the community comprehensively.

The Downtown Belleville District BIA looks forward to continuing its collaboration with local authorities, stakeholders, community members, and partners, to further strengthen the impact of the Welcoming Streets Program.

Welcoming Streets is excited to announce the opportunity to join their team as a Steward, dedicated to serving our community. If you're passionate about making a positive impact, we invite you to explore this opportunity by visiting [www.downtownbelleville.ca/jobs](http://www.downtownbelleville.ca/jobs).

For more information about the Downtown Belleville District BIA and its initiatives, please visit [www.downtownbelleville.ca/welcomingstreets](http://www.downtownbelleville.ca/welcomingstreets). To learn more about the *Community Safety and Policing* grant, visit <https://www.ontario.ca/page/community-safety-initiatives-and-resources#section-3>

*The*  
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