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Peggy Sattler MPP

London West

Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria
Office of Red Tape Reduction and Small Business
Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
56 Wellesley St W, Toronto, ON M5S 2S3

June 4, 2021

RE: London West small business owners with outstanding Ontario Small Business Support Grant issues

Dear Associate Minister Sarkaria,

I am writing to you on behalf of numerous small business owners in London West who have been unable to resolve significant delays in receiving the Ontario Small Business Support Grant, despite the efforts of my staff to assist them.

The grant was intended to offer a lifeline for small businesses, but too often, the funds have been unacceptably delayed or businesses have been inexplicably deemed ineligible, and business owners have no ability to speak to ministry staff or get meaningful support by either email or phone.

Minister, I am sure you understand the importance of delivering this much-needed relief in a timely way so that business owners can fulfill their financial obligations, keep their businesses afloat, and be ready to build back stronger when the pandemic has ended. The businesses in the attached list have been struggling for more than a year while following public health recommendations to protect our community. They have already accessed all other support programs for which they are eligible, made special arrangements with landlords, suppliers and creditors, and taken on both corporate and personal debt. Even with vaccinations offering light at the end of the tunnel, some of these businesses are in very real danger of not making it to their re-opening day.

I urge you to direct your officials to immediately follow up with all of the London West business owners included in the attached list to expedite the processing of their applications and ensure that the financial support they desperately need is provided as soon as possible. I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and look forward to hearing that these delays have been resolved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peggy Sattler".

Peggy Sattler, MPP
London West

Cc. MPP Ian Arthur, Ontario NDP Critic for Small Business Recovery