

Dec. 9, 2016

Mayor Jeff Lehman  
City of Barrie  
70 Collier Street, Box 400  
Barrie, ON L4M 4T5

Members of Council  
City of Barrie  
70 Collier Street, Box 400  
Barrie, ON L4M 4T5

Dear Mayor Lehman and Members of Council:

Congratulations on the recent announcement by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business naming Barrie as the third most progressive large city in the country for entrepreneurial start-ups in 2016. The rapid rise of Barrie as an entrepreneurial hotbed is testament to the effort of many partners intent on building a vibrant economy supporting the growth of the city.

As you will know, Georgian College has committed fully to supporting entrepreneurs in all of the communities that we serve. Entrepreneurship has been a key pillar of our Strategic Plan for the past 5 years and this commitment has been renewed in our recently approved 2016-2020 plan. The creation of the Henry Bernick Entrepreneurship Centre and the Centre for Social Entrepreneurship in the past few years has accelerated the support for entrepreneurs of all stripes in the city and across the region. In addition, Georgian College has embedded entrepreneurship training into every diploma and degree program that we offer and recently introduced an Entrepreneurship Co-op option for our students.

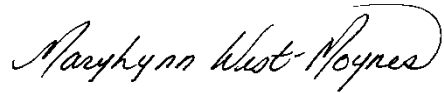
One recent initiative offers the promise of furthering our mutual interests in entrepreneurship. Georgian College has been invited to participate in discussions concerning the creation of an entrepreneurial hub in downtown Barrie. Inspired by the vision of local entrepreneur Craig Busch, "The Sandbox" aims to build on the recent success of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in and around the City of Barrie. Georgian is an energetic supporter of the creation of such a space and we are committing our time and resources to assist with the development of this project.

It is our hope that the City of Barrie will see the benefit of fueling the fire of entrepreneurship through the support of the Sandbox concept. For our part, Georgian College and our Henry Bernick Entrepreneurship Centre, our Centre of Applied Research and Innovation, and our Centre for Social Entrepreneurship are supporting the furthering of the Sandbox project through a financial commitment over 3 years. In addition, Georgian will be contributing resources and talent to the planning and creation of the physical space and to the ongoing delivery of content and entrepreneurship services once the space is established.

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In closing, we want you to know that Georgian College will continue to partner with the City of Barrie to build on the momentum that has been evident over the past few years on the entrepreneurship front. We ask you to give every consideration to the Sandbox project and to join with us to support the creation of this initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "MaryLynn West-Moynes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "M".

MaryLynn West-Moynes  
President and CEO