

# Town of Hawkesbury

## Economic Development Action Plan (2027–2031)



### WHAT IS THIS PROJECT?

The Town of Hawkesbury is developing a comprehensive Economic Development Action Plan to guide economic growth, investment, and community prosperity from 2027 to 2031.

The Action Plan will build on existing municipal plans and regional priorities, respond to current and emerging market conditions, and provide a clear, actionable roadmap to support business growth, investment attraction, downtown revitalization, and long-term community resilience.

### WHY THIS MATTERS?

Following the adoption of Hawkesbury's 2025–2030 Strategic Plan, the Town identified the need to translate its vision into action through initiatives that support economic growth and long-term prosperity. The Economic Development Action Plan will provide a practical roadmap to strengthen business attraction, retention, and expansion while building on Hawkesbury's key strengths, including its strategic location, strong municipal services, and bilingual character.

Having **secured up to \$50,000 in funding** through the Rural Ontario Development Program, the Town can move forward with this important initiative while reducing the financial burden on taxpayers. The Action Plan will establish clear priorities, actions, timelines, and partnerships to drive investment, support local business growth, and advance Hawkesbury's long-term economic development goals.

### HOW WILL INPUT BE GATHERED?

The Plan will be shaped through inclusive and accessible engagement and will include:

- Town Council and staff 1:1 conversations and workshops.
- Business sector organization engagement and outreach.
- Public engagement and ongoing feedback opportunities.
- Indigenous engagement with local First Nations and Indigenous partners, guided by appropriate protocols and relationship-building approaches.
- Clear "What We Heard" summaries to document findings and validate input.

### PROJECT TIMELINE



#### May 2026

Project kickoff, engagement planning, background review, baseline indicators



#### May – June 2026

Investment Readiness & Economic Analysis: Review of municipal and regional plans, investment readiness assessment, and analysis of demographics, labour force, business composition, infrastructure, and market conditions.



#### July – September 2026

Outreach & Community Engagement : Workshops, interviews, business engagement, Indigenous engagement, public engagement, and documentation of findings.



#### October – December 2026

Action Plan Development: Development of the draft Economic Development Action Plan, including priorities, initiatives, KPIs, and an implementation roadmap aligned with municipal capacity.



#### January – February 2027

Finalization & Council Presentation: Incorporation of feedback, finalization of AODA-compliant documents, preparation of summary materials, and presentation to Council.

*Final delivery by Jan.-Feb. 2027*



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## WHO IS LEADING THE PROJECT?

KLB Consulting (KLB) is leading the project with support from Global Integrated Trade Consultants Inc. (GITC).



Project management, stakeholder, rights-holder, and community engagement, overall plan development, and implementation-focused strategy development.



Senior advisory support on economic development strategy, market analysis, benchmarking, sector positioning, and investment readiness.

Together, the team brings complementary expertise, senior-level involvement, and a shared commitment to evidence-informed, action-oriented planning that is practical and implementable.



## HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

- Stay updated on the project's progression.
- Participate in business and stakeholder discussions.
- Attend workshops and community sessions.
- Share your ideas through public engagement opportunities.
- Review "What We Heard" summaries and provide feedback.

## QUESTIONS?

Scan QR code to visit the project webpage.

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