

# SMALL BUSINESS TOOLS

## Welcome to the City of Port Colborne!

Whether you are a new business joining our community, or an existing one looking to grow, we would like to extend the warmest THANK YOU for choosing our city.

We hope the information contained here provides the resources you need to succeed, and invite you to visit our team on the 2nd Floor of City Hall for ongoing business support, or check the city website at [www.portcolborne.ca](http://www.portcolborne.ca) and search "Starting a Business?" to gain access to regulations, licences, permits and other useful resources.

## LIBRARY Resources

Perhaps you're just starting out and need access to a computer, the internet, photocopying and scanning, or a quiet space to write your business plan? The library and all of its knowledgeable and kind staff is waiting to help you.

Stop by today at 310 King Street, reach us by phone 905-834-6512 or online.

## CIP Community Improvement Plan

The City of Port Colborne offers a range of incentive programs for new or expanding businesses through the Community Improvement Plan Program (CIP).

For example, if you are a business or property owner, the Façade Improvement Program is structured as a matching grant where the City will provide a grant equal to 50% of the cost of eligible façade and storefront improvement and restoration works, up to a maximum grant per property/project of \$10,000.00. Could this funding help you start your renos?

Contact the Economic Development Officer at [Bram.Cotton@portcolborne.ca](mailto:Bram.Cotton@portcolborne.ca) to learn where to start.

## Looking for FINANCIAL SUPPORT?

Where do you go when your business needs funds to grow?

Venture Niagara is a not-for-profit corporation that helps new business start-ups and existing businesses expand their operations so our community can thrive in today's economy.

To learn more contact Volker Loetfering the Business Loans Officer at [Volker@ventureniagara.com](mailto:Volker@ventureniagara.com).

## GRAND OPENING How to Plan For Success

Hosting a successful Grand Opening is key to announcing to the residents of Port Colborne that you are open for business. This includes the attendance of the City's Mayor, Councillors as well as BIA representatives at your ribbon cutting ceremony.

Email [Gail.Todd@portcolborne.ca](mailto:Gail.Todd@portcolborne.ca) to schedule your grand opening, or milestone anniversary celebration.

## BIA Business Improvement Association

Did you know Port Colborne has not ONE, but TWO Business Improvement Associations ready to support you? The Downtown BIA and Main Street BIA act as a voice for the business community, promoting, overseeing its improvement, beautification and maintenance. Reach out today!

Downtown BIA  
[downtownportcolborne@gmail.com](mailto:downtownportcolborne@gmail.com)

Main Street BIA  
[mainstreetportcolborne@gmail.com](mailto:mainstreetportcolborne@gmail.com)

## CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Serving business communities for over 111 years, the Port Colborne | Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce are not-for-profit-organizations existing to promote and to serve business members.

Contact [sandra@pcwchamber.com](mailto:sandra@pcwchamber.com) PCW Chamber of Commerce or [amy@gncc.ca](mailto:amy@gncc.ca) GNCC to learn about the membership perks for both chambers.

## Staffing Support PC WORKS EMPLOYMENT

PC Works offers a variety of free recruitment services for Employers and Job Seekers. Our recruitment services for Employers include:

- Job Board to advertise
- On-site and Virtual Job Fairs
- Training and placement financial Incentives for Employers
- Grant money for skills and training upgrading through the Canada-Ontario Job Grant

Contact us at 905-834-3629 to learn more!

## Small Business Enterprise Centre

The Niagara Falls Small Business Enterprise Centre (SBEC) is your go to for information and advice on starting or growing your small business.

They can be reached at (905) 356-7521.

## ShopHERE Your FREE website

ShopHERE provides independent small businesses and artists with a quick, easy and no-cost way to get selling online. With free support for building and launching an online store and free .CA domain registration, you can't go wrong!

Check out the program at [www.digitalmainstreet.ca/shopHERE/](http://www.digitalmainstreet.ca/shopHERE/)

## Additional Government RESOURCES

The newly updated Government of Ontario business page hosts a wealth of information for entrepreneurs who want to start or grow a business in Ontario. Visit the site below for support.

[www.ontario.ca/page/business-and-economy](http://www.ontario.ca/page/business-and-economy)

## Hosting an EVENT?

Are you hosting an event the community can attend? Be sure to list it for FREE in the city hall Community Event Calendar.

<https://tinyurl.com/3kkj76r8>

## Have more QUESTIONS?

The staff at the City of Port Colborne are always here to answer any questions and can be reached at (905) 835-2900 or in person, Monday to Friday from 8:30 to 4:30 on the 2nd floor.

If you would like to additional support please reach out to Olga Loeffen, the Business Community Ambassador at [olga.loeffen@portcolborne.ca](mailto:olga.loeffen@portcolborne.ca).

Are you listed on the BUSINESS DIRECTORY?

