

Hamilton City Council  
71 Main Street West  
Hamilton, Ontario  
L8P 4Y5

August 20, 2024

**Subject: Letter of Support for Mohawk Sports Park Feasibility Study**

Dear Members of Council,

I am writing on behalf of the Société Économique de l'Ontario (SÉO), a leading economic development organization for Ontario's Francophone and bilingual communities. Our mission encompasses enhancing employability, fostering entrepreneurship, and strengthening community economic development.

Through our various initiatives, we promote the establishment of new businesses and support the growth of existing enterprises by providing skills development services, strategic coaching, and essential resources. Additionally, we offer programs designed to assist Francophone and bilingual newcomers in securing quality employment, while also aiding employers in their recruitment efforts. Our work contributes significantly to the economic vitality of communities across Ontario.

One of our key services involves supporting projects that yield economic benefits and enhance the capacity of organizations throughout the province. In this context, we are pleased to express our support for the Mohawk Sports Park Council's efforts to complete a comprehensive feasibility study. This study aims to facilitate the development of a more inclusive and accessible public space that addresses the needs of various community organizations and equity-deserving groups within our community. We envision Mohawk Sports Park as a central hub for local socio-economic stakeholders, including the Francophone community.

The proposed facility at Mohawk Sports Park has the potential to evolve into a major multidisciplinary community center. This development would serve the Francophone and Francophile populations in the Hamilton area, who currently lack a dedicated gathering space that meets their needs. Furthermore, it would foster social connections, alleviate isolation among Francophones in the region, and enhance their sense of belonging.

This project aligns seamlessly with SÉO's strategic objectives, which include increasing economic opportunities for Francophones, directly supporting entrepreneurs through training and mentorship, and bolstering the innovation and competitiveness of the region's Francophone businesses. The anticipated outcomes of this initiative include job creation, targeted support for entrepreneurs, and an overall improvement in the quality of life for communities, particularly for Francophones.

By endorsing this project, SÉO aims to make a meaningful contribution to the economic development and enhanced living conditions of Francophones in this region of Ontario.

We are enthusiastic about our involvement in this initiative and firmly believe it will yield significant benefits for Hamilton's Francophone community while positively impacting the broader community's economic development. We are confident that the Hamilton City Council will recognize the potential significance and importance of this project for our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Patrick Cloutier  
General director  
Société Économique de l'Ontario

