

KCC – STATEMENT OF POSITION ON THE FUTURE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN KING TOWNSHIP

[AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD ON SEPTEMBER 2, 2015]

As we are all well aware, King Township is undergoing a period of rapid transformation in terms of overall population growth, population demographics and economic opportunity. In addition, many governmental initiatives are currently underway at the Provincial, Regional and Local levels of government that will impact significantly on future growth and economic development in King.

These initiatives include, but are not limited to, the Province's Growth Plan and Greenbelt Strategy, King's Official Plan review and the Nobleton Urban Area Zoning By-Law revamp. As the voice of business in King, we at the King Chamber of Commerce feel that it is important that the needs and aspirations of the business community in King (both present and future) be heard and addressed in these various reviews. Accordingly, we have prepared and respectfully submit the following statement of position on the future of economic development in King Township.

We are all committed to doing our best to make King Township a great place to live, work, and play. Work, and the opportunity for meaningful, stable work, is a core part of this commitment. This means that we need to advocate for a legal and regulatory environment that promotes rather than hinders the creation of jobs for local citizens at all stages of their career (including, part time jobs for students, especially Seneca students, early career jobs for our younger people and a broad variety of employment opportunities for people who are mid-career).

There is presently a "jobs deficit" in King. This means that many more people live in King and work elsewhere than live outside and come to work in King. While we respect the choice of any individual, an aspirational goal of local government should be to incent and promote a reasonable balance between the local population and available work opportunities.

We presently have about 11,000 residents of working age. Using the Provincial average labour force participation rate of two thirds (2/3rds), this means we should have about 7100 jobs in King. At present, we only have approximately 6000 and the local population is expected to increase by a further 10,000 (24K in 2014 to 34K by 2031) over the next fifteen (15) or so years. As we continue to grow our population we need to grow our industrial/commercial tax base and the number of jobs available in King.

Promoting economic development and consequential job growth means we need business friendly government, laws, regulations and policies. We need to create and maintain an environment in which it is easy to conduct business (i.e. minimize the proverbial red-tape that can be a barrier to expanding).

Some examples include, but are certainly not limited to, policies like having broad accepted use zoning for commercial properties, having village cores that are default or pre-zoned for business, permitting wayfinding signs for business without having to go through an exception process and having sufficient shovel ready employment lands available for future economic growth.

We respectfully ask that you bear the above in mind as you proceed with your review and planning. We also thank you for your anticipated consideration of our most respectful submissions.



Tom Allen
President, King Chamber of Commerce