



CF-24-25

February 26, 2024

Dan Carter
Mayor, Municipality of Oshawa

Dear Dan,

I am following up from our meeting on Tuesday February 20th to provide you with details of Spark Centre's longer-term funding agreement with the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT), and our request for the City of Oshawa. I have also cc'd Sherry Colbourne as exploring issues surrounding transportation (executive airport, deep water port) and healthcare technology could be beneficial to both Oshawa and Spark.

Spark Centre, a Regional Innovation Centre (RIC), is funded by MEDJCT to deliver commercialization, intellectual property support and advisory services to Ontario-based technology and innovation startups in the Durham Region and Northumberland County. For twelve years, we have been a RIC in good standing, and are proud to report to you that, once again, our MEDJCT agreement has been renewed. As of 1 April 2024, Spark will enter into a new three-year agreement with MEDJCT and receive \$598,500 of funding annually. This three-year funding agreement, in contrast to the previous short-term agreements, is critical to Spark's efforts in effectively planning, attracting and supporting technology and innovation in the City of Oshawa and Durham Region over a substantially longer time horizon.

MEDJCT's financial support continues to be predicated on Spark receiving regional and local financial support. We are deeply appreciative of the City of Oshawa's longstanding support for Spark Centre. Going forward, we are requesting that the City of Oshawa maintain the current annual funding of \$60,000 for the next three years matching MEDJCT's 3-year funding window, specifically for the period 1 April 2024 through 31 March 2027. We continue to be sensitive to the tremendous fiscal challenges faced by all Ontario municipalities. In light of that, we would also welcome your backing and guidance as we respectfully advocate that the Region of Durham consider reversing some of Spark's prior funding cutbacks, especially if we continue to demonstrate job creation and capital inflows that are critical to Oshawa and Durham Region.

The Board and I look forward to keeping you informed about key milestones at Spark and providing you with any information that you might need. We thank you for your support for Spark and your confidence in our mission to support technology and innovation in Oshawa and the Durham Region.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Sambasivam", with a horizontal line underneath.

Hari Sambasivam
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