

July 29, 2016

Her Worship Lisa Helps  
Mayor of Victoria, City of Victoria,  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria, BC, V8W 1P6

Re: 2016 Open for Business Awards

Dear Mayor Helps:



On behalf of the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce (The Chamber) and its more than 1,400 member organizations, I am writing to support the City of Victoria's application to the Ministry of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction's 2016 Open for Business Awards.

You have set a positive tone and taken meaningful action in support of small business in a number of ways, for example:

- Your creation this year of the Business Hub and a Business Ambassador committed to building the priority sectors of the economy identified by the Mayor's Economic Task Force and to making it easier to do business. We are looking forward to the Business Hub and the Business Ambassador building a track record of success and to working with them on issues affecting small business.
- Your financial commitment and involvement in the South Island Prosperity Project, launched in 2016. This new not-for-profit regionalized approach to economic development, with dedicated and predictable funding from public and private participants, was incubated by the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce. It will help Greater Victoria to grow locally so we can compete globally.
- You spoke at our AGM this year and your councilors regularly attend our events, especially during Small Business Week and Chamber Week, and you have issued proclamations in support.
- You have assisted our members directly on a wide range of issues, most recently in the relocation and successful opening of Wilson Group's Capital City Station in the downtown core.
- You extend invitations to Chamber staff and experts to sit on your stakeholder advisory panels, such as the Private Off-Street Parking By-Law Review and Single-Use Plastic Bag Consultation. Such involvement ensures the voice of our 1,400 members are part of municipal decision-making and helps us keep our membership informed.

Thank you for your efforts to date, and for your ongoing attention to making it easier to do business in Victoria and we wish you our best regarding the 2016 Open for Business Awards.

Yours truly,



Catherine Holt  
Chief Executive Officer

cc. Emily Barz, Business Ambassador, City of Victoria