

March 18, 2021

Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust
201-384 Bernard Avenue
Kelowna, BC V1Y 6N5

Re: Letter of Support – Rural Business and Community Recovery Program

To Whom It May Concern:

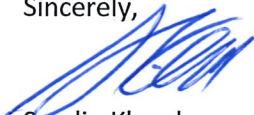
Please accept this letter as confirmation of support from the Salmon Arm & District Chamber of Commerce, with respect to Salmon Arm Economic Development's (SAEDS') and District of Sicamous Development Corporation (DOSDC) application to the Rural Business and Community Recovery Program.

The Salmon Arm Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit organization comprised of businesses, professionals, residents, and other community groups that work together to achieve a healthy economic and socio-economic environment that benefits the entire community. The Chamber has been working closely with SAEDS in its community response to the COVID-19 pandemic, holding a position, along with SAEDS, on the COVID-19 Community Response Taskforce which was assembled early on in the pandemic to mitigate its economic impact.

Like many other rural communities, Salmon Arm and Sicamous have been hard hit by the pandemic. Many local businesses have seen a sharp decline in revenues and are looking to our community economic development organization for support to help them through this difficult time. In response, SAEDS and DOSDC are proposing the creation of a one-year, 1.5 FTE Community Recovery Advisory position to actively address the economic recovery of rural businesses through an accelerated response geared toward resiliency and growth.

The Chamber sees SAEDS and DOSDC as uniquely positioned to provide these services to the local business community. Further, they have proven track records in delivering responsive programming in a timely and fiscally responsible manner. For these reasons, the Chamber fully supports the application to this funding program and looks forward to the positive impact the resulting initiatives will have in our community.

Sincerely,



Sandip Khrod,
Vice-President, Salmon Arm & District Chamber of Commerce