

Agenda

Collingwood Mayor's Economic Development Roundtable

Date: September 15, 2026
Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Location: Collingwood Public Library – Community Rooms B and C
Subject: Research and Innovation Capabilities of Post-Secondaries – Learn What Programs and Opportunities are Available to Collingwood Employers

About:

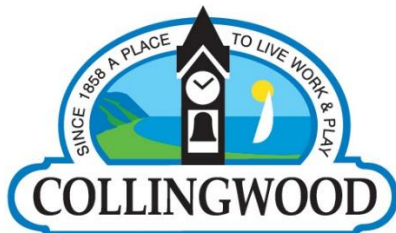
The Town of Collingwood regularly hosts the Mayor's Roundtable on Economic Development to actively engage sector-based industry representatives. We want to listen to and benefit from your input on how we best focus the Town's resources and strategic priorities.

This Roundtable will provide an opportunity for employers to learn about the services, programs, and partnership opportunities available through local post-secondary institutions while identifying workforce challenges and opportunities related to talent attraction, retention, skills development, and innovation. Georgian College and Lakehead University will discuss their presence within the South Georgian Bay community through applied research partnerships, experiential learning opportunities, co-operative education placements, and workforce upskilling initiatives. Feedback gathered will help inform future collaborations between industry, academia, and municipal partners.

Agenda:

1 p.m. (5 mins)

Welcome and Round Table Introductions



Speaker: Mayor Hamlin

1:05 a.m. – 1:35 p.m. (30 mins)

Presentation - Research, Innovation and Workforce Partnerships: Updates from Georgian College and Lakehead University

Speaker:

Introductions, Manager Sharma

Name, Title, Georgian College & Lakehead University

Rebecca Heffernan, Director, Economic Development & Research Support Orillia

Office of Research and Innovation, Lakehead University, Orillia

1:35 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. (approx. 1 hr 10 mins)

Roundtable Discussion - Workforce, Talent and Innovation Partnerships

Speaker: Mayor Hamlin

Throughout the session, Mentimeter questions will be used to gather live feedback on workforce challenges, skills needs, partnership opportunities, and future priorities. Findings will help inform future collaboration between employers, educational institutions, and community partners.

THEME 1 – Workforce Challenges and Talent Needs (1:30-1:55 p.m.)

Understanding current workforce pressures and future labour market needs.

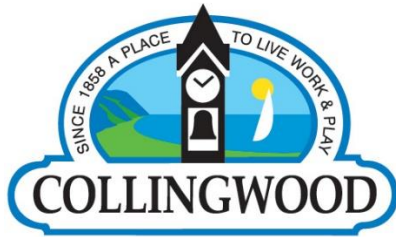
Q1: What workforce challenges are having the greatest impact on your organization today? (5 mins)

Q2: If your organization could make one recommendation or change to improve workforce attraction and/or retention, what would it be? (5 mins)

Discussion debrief by each group (15 mins)

THEME 2 - Workforce Development and Training Opportunities (1:55 – 2:20 p.m.)

Identifying opportunities to better align workforce development supports with employer needs.



Q3: What supports from the post secondary programming would have the greatest impact on your organization? (5 mins)

Q4: What should be the top workforce development priority for the Town of Collingwood Economic Development Division over the next 3-5 years? (5 mins)

Discussion debrief by each group (15 mins)

THEME 3 – Partnerships, Research and Experiential Learning (2:20 – 2:45 a.m.)

Identifying opportunities to strengthen connections between industry and post-secondary institutions.

Q5: How can Lakehead University and Georgian College better support your workforce and business needs? (5 mins)

Q6: What can post-secondary institutions do to better prepare students and/or graduates for successful employment in your organization or industry? (5 mins)

Discussion debrief by each group (15 mins)

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Closing Roundtable

Speaker:

Coordinator O'Donnell to provide a summary of discussion

Mayor Hamlin to provide closing remarks