



COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE:	September 18, 2024	COUNCIL MEETING DATE:	October 21, 2024
DEPARTMENT:	Economic Development		
SUBJECT:	2025 Business Façade Improvement Program Grant		

**PURPOSE:**

To apply for a grant from Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) to support the Business Façade Improvement Program for Chetwynd

**SUMMARY/BACKGROUND:**

The District of Chetwynd would like to extend an open invitation to those businesses in Chetwynd that might be interested in enhancing their economic viability and vibrancy through visual improvements such as facades, signage, murals, architectural features, siding, attached patios, lighting, and awnings. Private sector investment in local business improvements is encouraged to enhance the visual appeal of the downtown area facilitating community pride as well as supporting tourism and the recruitment of new businesses and/or residents.

The objective of this program is to support economic development by attracting private investment in local business façade improvements.

The total funding available is up to \$20,000 which would support four (4) applications of up to a maximum of \$5,000 each for the approved applications. The Economic Development department will assist applicants during the process to ensure the success of the program and to make the process as easy as possible.

The Business Façade Improvement Grant with NDIT is 100 percent funded.

**PAST PRACTICE/PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

We had many inquiries in the 2024 program, and four (4) approved projects. The improvements to the businesses or not-for-profit organizations who participated in the façade improvements program aided the beautification and appeal of the buildings.

**STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:**

Economic Growth – Item 4. Support our current business community through public education and initiatives that promote local shopping

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

THAT Council receive for information; or

THAT Council approve the application to Northern Development Initiative Trust for the Façade Improvement program for 2025.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SUBMITTED BY:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____ Ellen McAvany Department Head</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION TO COUNCIL BY:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____ Stephen McLain Chief Administrative Officer</p>
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