



# DOWNEY DIGEST

ISSUE 22 · OCTOBER 2022



## A NOTE FROM DOUG

The days are getting shorter and the inevitable chill of fall air has finally come to Barrie - Springwater - Oro-Medonte. While this season signifies change, and the end of summer, it is also a great time for celebration. Recently, we all gathered to celebrate Thanksgiving with our families. Before that, I had the opportunity to meet so many of you at the different Fall Fairs across our riding. As the temperature continues to drop, I look forward to the warmth of your company at all upcoming events, including the return of many of our Santa Claus Parades!

# CELEBRATING SMALL BUSINESSES

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Sunday, October 16 marked the beginning of Small Business Week in Ontario. Each year, we celebrate the ambition, entrepreneurial spirit and grit of small business owners and their businesses across the province. Ontario currently has over 400,000 small businesses that employ over 2 million Ontarians.



As part of the Small Business Week celebrations, I attended the 30th (plus one, if you ask the owners) anniversary of Sojourn Outdoors. This fantastic store has everything you could possibly need for any outdoor adventures, and provides top quality service with knowledgeable staff.

Our riding is full of incredible small businesses, and it doesn't take more than a look at the downtown core of Barrie to find them. As the Christmas season rapidly approaches, I would encourage each and every one of you to try and support local while doing your holiday shopping this season and support these small businesses who remain the backbone of our community.

## CELEBRATING LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK

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The week of October 16 - 22 also marks Local Government Week in Ontario. This week allows us all the opportunity to reflect on these vital services and responsibilities that rest with local governments. This week is also a wonderful time to learn about the many opportunities to get involved with your local government, including attending a town hall meeting or having your say in local consultation.

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

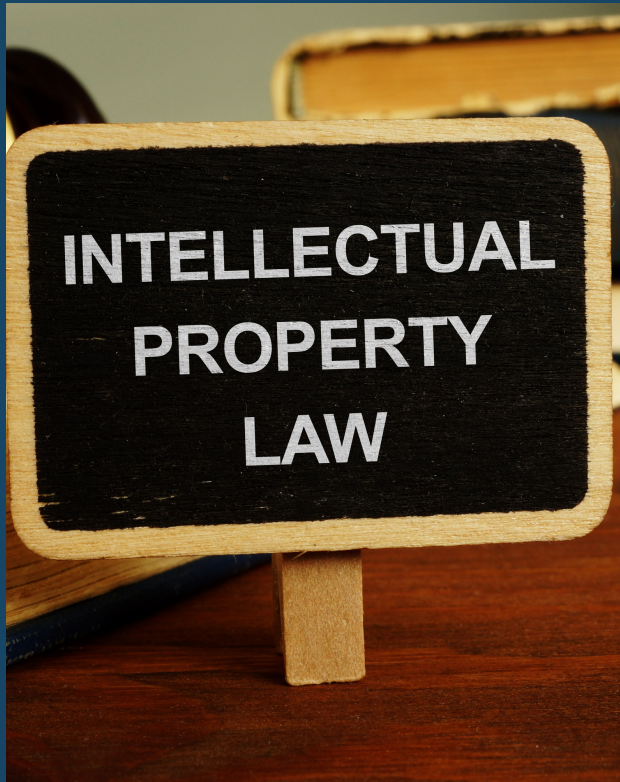
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The Ontario government is supporting the provinces innovators in developing, managing and commercializing their intellectual property (IP) with the launch of services at Intellectual Property Ontario (IPON). The new agency, announced in March 2022, will help researches, entrepreneurs and businesses maximize the value of their IP and strengthen their capacity to grow and compete in the global economy.



# INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

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IPON is now open for business and will offer services to an initial cohort of clients in the medical technologies, artificial intelligence, and automotive technologies sectors this fall, broadening its services to additional clients in the coming months.

IPON is Canada's first provincial agency dedicated to maximizing the benefits of Ontario-made IP.

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IPON will offer clients on-demand, online educational resources to help them learn more about IP; provide grants to connect them with IP experts and legal counsel to assist them, for example, to file a patent to protect their invention; and advisory services and mentorship opportunities. IPON will also help build the capacity of postsecondary institutions and others in the innovation ecosystem to maximize the value of Ontario-made IP.

