

September 26, 2018

Rural Economic Development Program
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
1 Stone Road West, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor NW, Guelph, ON N1G 4Y2

<u>Subject: Community Workforce Development – Driving Innovation & Careers of the Future</u>

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of the funding application submitted to the Rural Economic Development Fund by the Town of Cobourg.

It is our understanding that the project will be led by the Town of Cobourg and involve their partners at Venture13. It will target high school students throughout Northumberland County in order to communicate the value of career opportunities in Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM). It will also establish pathways between high school students, academia and industry that will create a link between education and future innovative employment.

As Northumberland Manufacturers Association are hearing every day from our industries that obtaining qualified employees and retaining them is becoming more and more difficult, we feel this project will benefit our members. We look forward to working in partnership with the Town of Cobourg to create new connections with students, education and employment opportunities within the region.

Yours truly,

Fred Kosseim President