

# Gordie Howe International Bridge

# MOMENTUM

issued by Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority



PONT INTERNATIONAL  
**GORDIE  
HOWE**  
INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE



The Gordie Howe International Bridge project between Windsor, Ontario and Detroit, Michigan will help move goods and people more efficiently at this important trade gateway. Managed by Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) and working in collaboration with the State of Michigan, the project is being delivered through a public-private partnership (P3) which will see Bridging North America design, build, finance, operate and maintain the bridge.

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## GORDIE HOWE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE TEAM ANNOUNCES FUNDING TO LOCAL COMMUNITY

Nine organizations serving Sandwich/west Windsor and Delray/Southwest Detroit are the benefactors of the first round of funding through the Community Organization Investment initiative – a component of the Gordie Howe International Bridge Community Benefits Plan.

The \$100,000 (CDN) in funding was provided in July and supports the exciting and versatile projects announced on June 10, 2020. The funded projects will benefit local children and seniors, support local businesses and honour the area's rich history.

Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority CEO, Bryce Phillips, said the project team is delivering meaningful benefits that will positively impact community members' quality of life.

The Community Organization Investment is a five-year annual investment allowance with \$50,000 (CDN) allocated to registered non-profit or charitable organizations located in or serving residents in Sandwich/west Windsor and Delray/Southwest Detroit respectively. The funds support events, programming and infrastructure improvements that will benefit the communities and align with one of the community investment priorities, including community partnerships, community safety and connections, economic benefits, and/or aesthetics and landscaping.

Alicia Rodriguez, the manager of the food pantry at Ste. Anne de Detroit Catholic Church, said the money will help meet the increased demand for food as well as household and personal care items.

"The funding provided by the Gordie Howe International Bridge Community Benefits Plan will allow us to purchase equipment to expand our storage and handling capabilities to better serve the growing number of individuals and families seeking assistance," says Rodriguez.

Lana Talbot, a historian at Sandwich First Baptist Church, said their grant will help construct a large heritage museum in a modified shipping container that will honour the Sandwich area's role with the Underground Railroad and celebrate the contributions of African Canadians.

"This museum is going to bridge the past with the future," says Talbot. "We're going to take you on tours of the Underground Railroad and it's going to bring a lot of people from the United States into Canada."

The recipients were selected following an application process that ran from November 2019 through January 2020 and resulted in 50 eligible submissions. The project's Local Community Group, comprised of stakeholders from the host communities on both sides of the border, played a significant role in reviewing the applications and providing recommendations to the project team. *See page 2 for the list of the funded projects.*

**TOLL-FREE  
NUMBER-  
FREE FOR  
CANADIAN  
AND US**



Have a question about the Gordie Howe International Bridge project?

Call us toll-free at **1-844-322-1773**

Our team is here to listen and help provide callers the information they are looking for. The line is answered Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

We are committed to responding to all public inquiries within three business days.

Funding is being provided to:

## CANADIAN

- Sandwich First Baptist Church: Sandwich Underground Railroad Freedom Museum
- Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Windsor Essex Central Council: Helping Hands Friendship Centre
- Friends of the Court: Spreading Our Roots
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Windsor Essex: Big Neighbourhood – Sandwich
- Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA): Binational Detroit River Cleanup
- Les Amis Duff-Bâby: Grand Opening Event - Duff-Bâby Mansion

## US

- West Vernor & Springwells Business Improvement District (BID): The Bid Is Open for Business!
- Bridging Communities, Inc.: Southwest Expanded Seniors Services
- Ste. Anne de Detroit Catholic Church (Food Pantry): Food Pantry Equipment & Replacement Expansion Program

The application process for the 2021 funding cycle is anticipated to begin in November 2020.

## CEO UPDATE

This month marks my second year since joining Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority as its Chief Executive Officer. As I reflect on the past two years, I can only be impressed by the dedication of our employees, contractors and partners, especially over the past few months when the lives of everyone around the world has changed.

With these unprecedented times, every industry has had to adapt, and that includes the Gordie Howe International Bridge team. Our project has been designated as essential infrastructure and we have been able to continue the work we need to do on both sides of the border while keeping the health and well-being of our workers, our stakeholders and the public as a whole, a top priority.

We responded quickly to COVID-19 by closing the community offices in Sandwich and Southwest Detroit as well as WDBA's head office. All of our employees were provided with the necessary tools to allow them to work remotely, and we implemented new technology to ensure that we remain connected with each other, and importantly, with the public.

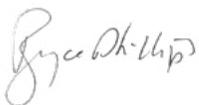
As the current work on the project is civil construction, much of the activities can be carried out in a manner consistent with physical distancing precautions. Comprehensive COVID-19 safety protocols and procedures that include the guidance provided by public health professionals on both sides of the border have been implemented. These measures include masks for all workers, daily screening on the project sites, suspending cross-border travel except for essential workers, observing distancing requirement and regular cleaning of our work spaces.

Yet during this period in which we had to adapt to a new way of working, we continued to make progress on all four components of the project – at the ports of entry in Canada and the United States, at the Michigan Interchange and at the bridge sites. We also continued to stay connected with community members through virtual meetings, our toll-free number, social media and email.

I would like to thank all the people working on the project for their ongoing commitment to the project especially during these difficult times. Their dedication has not faltered and, as a result, we have been able to continue construction and to work toward having the Gordie Howe International Bridge open to traffic by the end of 2024.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank our stakeholders, especially those residents in the host communities of Sandwich and Delray/Southwest Detroit for their input and interest in the project. The Gordie Howe International Bridge team is proud to be a member of these vibrant communities. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Stay safe.



Bryce Phillips  
CEO, Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority



Aaron Epstein, CEO of BNA and Bryce Phillips, CEO of WDBA

## IN THE COMMUNITY

Our neighbouring communities are important to the Gordie Howe International Bridge project team, so at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, we looked for ways to help families facing hardships in Canada and the United States during this unprecedented time.

Staff from WDBA, BNA the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and other consultants and contractors involved in the construction of the Gordie Howe International Bridge, made donations to the Gleaners Community Food Bank and the Unemployed Help Centre.

The Gleaners distributes food in Michigan through their network of partner pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, senior centers and other agencies that directly feed hungry people and support families. The Unemployed Help Centre, the hub for the Windsor-Essex Food Bank Associations, provides families who would otherwise go without with three days of healthy food.

In addition, BNA gave hundreds of N95 masks to Windsor Regional Hospital in the early days of the pandemic when health officials made the call for donations of medical supplies.

The Gordie Howe International Bridge project team is proud to be part of the Windsor/Essex and Southwest Detroit communities and will continue to support the communities in which we work and live.



Bob Gallant, Bridging North America's Health Safety and Security Manager, is pictured with some of the 320 N95 masks donated to Windsor Regional Hospital by the Gordie Howe International Bridge team in April.



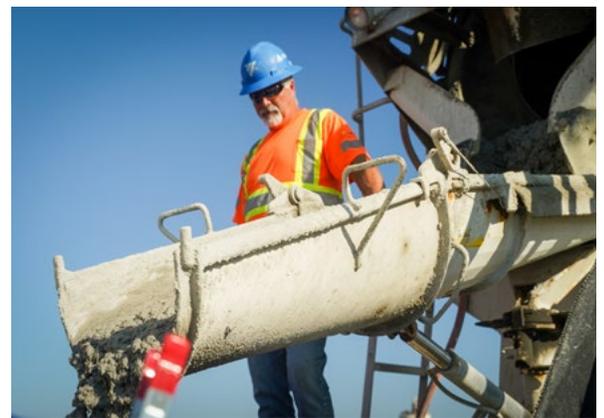
In March, the Gordie Howe International Bridge team participated once again in the United Way's annual iClimb event and help raise funds to battle childhood poverty in Windsor-Essex County.

## JOB CREATION

The Gordie Howe International Bridge project is creating construction-related jobs and long-term employment opportunities in Canada and the US. As of March 31, 2020, more than 2,800 people - 1470 in Canada and 1363 in Michigan - have received the mandatory orientation to enable them to work on this once-in-a-lifetime project. Of the 2,800 people, 50 per cent have been from local communities. As well, over 150 local businesses including 83 from the Windsor/Essex region and 72 companies in Detroit, have been engaged on the project

The most active period for construction on the project is expected to occur between 2021-2023, when approximately 70 per cent of total work hours will be expended. The Gordie Howe International Bridge project team is working with local companies, organizations and trades associations to discuss opportunities for partnerships and with educational institutions to help develop the next generation of skilled trade workers.

People interested in working on the project can get more information about opportunities by visiting [gordiehoweinternationalbridge.com/en/opportunities](http://gordiehoweinternationalbridge.com/en/opportunities). Workforce WindsorEssex has also launched the Bridge Jobs Tool, available at [www.workforcewindsor.essex.com/bridge-jobs-tool](http://www.workforcewindsor.essex.com/bridge-jobs-tool). This user-friendly tool tracks and shares Canadian job postings and project milestones related to the Gordie Howe International Bridge project.



Tower foundation concrete pour at Canadian bridge site



Looking for some fun and informative activities for your children to do while at home? Our Kid Construction Zone page on the project website is filled with material about the Gordie Howe International Bridge project that will interest both the young and the young at heart.

On this webpage we provide information about the various project components in a fun and engaging way. Visit [www.gordiehoweinternationalbridge.com/en/kid-construction-zone](http://www.gordiehoweinternationalbridge.com/en/kid-construction-zone) for interactive games, videos, puzzles and much more. This page will be updated with more fun as our project progresses so come back and visit this page often.

## PEOPLE PROFILE

### MEET OUR CO-OP STUDENTS

Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority is pleased to provide valuable work experience and professional development opportunities to post-secondary students through WDBA's Co-op placement program. This term, 21 students have been hired from four post-secondary educational institutions: the University of Windsor, Western University, the University of Waterloo, and St. Clair College. The students come from different faculties and programs including Business Administration, Engineering, Computer Science, and Information Technology. Since the program began in 2016, over 100 placements have been offered with several students coming back to WDBA for a second co-op term.

"WDBA is thrilled to provide these opportunities to students and provide valuable learning experience," says Deanna Santos, WDBA's Human Resources Coordinator. "WDBA has learned a lot from our students and we look forward to continuing our student placements and their contributions to this iconic project and our organization."

While some businesses were forced to close due to an unprecedented pandemic, WDBA continued to hire students to work on this legacy project. "During COVID-19, WDBA remained committed to our co-op program and successfully transitioned all existing co-op students to work from home and onboarded new students to work from home," says Deanna. "We did not eliminate any student positions and continue to provide co-op opportunities in each of our departments."

The co-op placements program not only provides students with essential workplace skills but also helps them to make decisions about their education and career path so that they can make a successful transition into the job market. "We have heard from all of our students that they have found their experience with WDBA incredibly rewarding and have helped them in their career decisions," says Deanna. "One of our former students, Kiefer Wright, changed faculties following his co-op term with us and was successful in competing for a full-time job at WDBA. We are thrilled that his work experiences with us not only helped him choose a career path, but also resulted in him working with us after graduation."

*A few words from our students:*

*"I joined WDBA as I believe this is a great opportunity to gain valuable corporate business experience while growing my network." – Jeron Kir, Marketing & Communications Co-op Student*

*"WDBA has allowed me to gain more formal work experience and once the project is completed, it will be gratifying to be able to say I had a part in building that, regardless of how small my part may be." – Tea DeAngelis, Human Resources Co-op Student*

*"Knowing we are working on such an influential project drives me to learn new things and put my current skillset to the test." – Adam Laframboise, Public Policy Co-op Student*

