

Ministry of Economic Development,
Job Creation and Trade

Pandemic Response Secretariat /
Intellectual Property Secretariat

Office of the Assistant Deputy Minister

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Ministère du Développement
économique, de la Création
d'emplois et du Commerce

Secrétariat de l'action relative à la
pandémie /Secrétariat de l'action en
matière de propriété intellectuelle

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April 4, 2022

MEMORANDUM TO:

MPP Jessica Bell
Legislative Office
Room 372
Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

FROM:

Victor J. Severino,
Assistant Deputy Minister
Pandemic Response Secretariat
Intellectual Property Secretariat

**RE: Ontario Small Business Relief Grant Responses as raised at the Standing
Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA) March 23, 2022**

The ministry has reviewed the seven cases that your office submitted to me as a follow-up to my presentation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts on March 23, 2022.

- A review of the five cases related to the Ontario Small Business Relief Grant (OSBRG) indicates that three of the companies have been approved for the OSBRG grant. In addition, we have reached out to the remaining two companies seeking additional information to confirm if they are eligible for the OSBRG grant.
- With respect to the Ontario Small Business Support Grant (OSBSG) we are investigating the status of the two companies who indicated that they have not received their grants under the program. It may also be helpful if your office could reach out to these companies and ask them to contact their respective financial institutions to inquire about the status of these payments.

We would also like to provide some helpful advice regarding companies that may be inquiring about the status of their OSBRG grant:

- Your office may wish to advise companies to ensure that they are operating with an active business license, as companies with expired businesses licenses may be deemed ineligible unless they can provide other information that demonstrates their status as an active business.
- Your office may also wish to advise companies to provide copies of documents that demonstrate they own or are leasing a physical location that was ordered to close as part of the Province's Modified Step 2 restrictions that came into effect on January 5, 2022.
- Finally, your office may wish to advise companies to ensure they are using consistent contact names, operating business names and other identifying information when submitting inquiries regarding the OSBSG and OSBRG programs, so that staff can more easily locate and reconcile information between the two respective programs.

Many thanks for bringing these issues to my attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Victor J. Severino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and a stylized "S" at the end.

Victor J. Severino

Assistant Deputy Minister

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