



# 2024 Annual Report

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**City of Brampton Economic Development Office**





# A Message from Our Leaders



It is my pleasure to present the Economic Development Office 2024 Annual Report.

What a remarkable year, driven by hard work, bold initiatives, groundbreaking partnerships and the indomitable spirit of innovation that defines us.

**In 2024, we celebrated some impressive milestones:**

- Brampton companies such as The Stevens Company, Harris-Stolper Inc., Zochem, Sun Pharma, Valle Foam and Plastcoat, a division of Magna International, reached remarkable anniversaries—showing the strength and longevity of our local business ecosystem.
- MDA Space secured a \$1 billion contract with the Canadian Space Agency for the next phase of the Canadarm3 program, propelling Brampton to the forefront of space exploration and technology.

- Stellantis opened a parts Distribution Centre – a 500,000 sq ft facility representing an investment of \$25.1M, employing 250 workers! This new facility is a critical distribution hub supporting the needs of nearly 300 Stellantis dealers and their customers in Eastern Canada.
- ValleFoam unveiled an 18,000 sq ft expansion equating to a \$6M investment.
- Hello Fresh announced their expansion into Brampton, employing 600 workers in a 200,000 sq ft facility.
- From Handi Foods’ \$25M investment, Sun Pharma’s \$30M investment, to Italtasta’s \$1.7M expansion – Brampton continues to be a hotbed for industry growth.

**These milestones contribute to the boisterous growth we are seeing on all fronts.**

With over 800,000 people and more than 111,000 businesses, we have surpassed Mississauga to become the 3rd largest city in Ontario and the 7th largest city in the country.

Based on the January 2025 StatsCan population update, we are adding 45,000 new residents every year in Brampton. That’s more than 3,700 new people a month or 125 people a day.

Brampton’s industrial construction numbers were incredible in 2024, with over 2.4 million sq ft of new space, which was an outstanding 30% greater than 2023. Commercial construction also grew by 36% with another 350,000 sq ft under construction in 2024.

From record-breaking building permits and development applications to Brampton’s AAA credit rating, we are an attractive destination for investment and business. For the fourth consecutive year, for

example, Site Selection Magazine lists Brampton as one of Canada’s top 20 locations to invest.

We are a leader in planning and development efficiency. According to the 2024 Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) Municipal Benchmarking Study, we rank first in approval speed for development applications among big cities with a population over 250,000.

We are strengthening Brampton’s healthcare infrastructure with \$81.1M in reserves towards the City’s \$125M local share for our second hospital and a \$10M investment for Toronto Metropolitan University’s School of Medicine, the first of its kind in the GTA in over 100 years.

Our Med Tech task force is making great strides towards the development of wet labs and clean labs, positioning Brampton as a leader in the life sciences sector.

Finally, with the Brampton Innovation District, Brampton is well-positioned as a key player in Ontario’s Innovation Corridor, with post-secondary partnerships and mixed-used, cutting-edge spaces dedicated to innovation, digital technology and community-driven opportunities.

In conclusion, we are building a city defined by diversity, innovation and an unstoppable spirit. As we look ahead to 2025 and beyond, I am confident that by working together we will face the challenges and continue to drive progress and prosperity.

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**Patrick Brown**  
Mayor, City of Brampton



**Gurpartap Singh Toor**

Regional Councillor, Ward 9 & 10  
Chair, Economic Development

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“Economic development is the cornerstone of Brampton’s future, transforming our city into a thriving urban centre with sustainable jobs, innovative businesses and unparalleled opportunities.”



**Rowena Santos**

Regional Councillor, Ward 1 & 5  
Vice-Chair, Economic Development

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“To drive progress, we are “thinking big” – laying the groundwork for long-term prosperity strengthening our city’s global competitiveness and creating meaningful opportunities for our diverse and skilled workforce.”



**Marlon Kallideen**

Chief Administrative Officer

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“Brampton’s success depends on strategic economic development—our focus extends beyond growth to fostering lasting prosperity. By diversifying markets and fostering a resilient, inclusive economy, we are creating long-term opportunities for all and positioning our city as a leader in the industries of the future.”



**Denise McClure**

Interim Director, Economic Development and International Relations

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“Our team is dedicated to attracting and nurturing businesses that drive innovation, create high-quality jobs and contribute to our community’s overall wellbeing. In 2024 we were recognized by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) as an Economic Development Organization of the Year, highlighting our commitment to fostering economic growth, innovation and development in Brampton.”



As the **7th-largest city in Canada** and the **2nd-largest city in the Greater Toronto Area**, Brampton is home to more than **800,000 residents** and **111,000 businesses**, welcoming **45,000 new residents every year.**

The Brampton Economic Development Office is dedicated to fostering a dynamic economy by supporting business growth, attracting investment and promoting innovation. We create a thriving environment for entrepreneurs and organizations by leveraging Brampton’s strategic location, skilled workforce and diverse culture.



## 2024 Highlights

- Handi-Foods' first manufacturing facility in Brampton created **175 new jobs**.
- HelloFresh expanded into Brampton, opening a 200,000 sq ft facility and creating **600 new jobs**.
- The Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU) School of Medicine, set to open in Brampton in 2025, is estimated to create **1,588 new full-time faculty and staff jobs**, and supporting up to 18,976 jobs across Ontario.
- Stellantis opened a new state-of-the-art MOPAR Parts Distribution Centre – a 500,000 sq ft facility representing an investment of \$25.1M **employing 250 workers**.



Total Industrial Construction Value = **\$653M+**



Total Commercial Construction Value = **\$204M+**



Total Institutional Construction Value = **\$384M+**



Total # of Businesses = **111,000**



Total # of ICI Permits Issued = **620**

Source: City of Brampton Planning, Building and Permits Department 2024





## ► City of Brampton Launches Business Incentives to Attract Office Development

### A gamechanger for office development

Under the City's newly approved Development Charges (DC) By-law, Brampton is offering an DC incentive to reduce costs for qualifying office and mixed-use projects. The incentive applies to eligible developments that support the following key sectors:

- **Research and lab space**
- **Advanced manufacturing**
- **Food and beverage processing**
- **Health and life sciences**
- **Innovation and technology**
- **Professional services**

By reducing costs, Brampton is helping businesses and developers maximize their investments, whether they are constructing dedicated office buildings or integrating office space into mixed-use developments. This initiative allows businesses to reinvest in their growth, creating a prime environment for expansion and long-term success, while contributing to a dynamic, thriving city.

### Why this matters

This financial incentive aligns with Brampton's long-term vision to attract businesses and create high-value jobs.



#### **Cost savings:**

Developers can build and expand without the burden of additional fees, making Brampton a competitive option for office space investments.



#### **Economic growth:**

Encouraging office developments fuels job creation and strengthens the local economy.



#### **Strategic vision:**

Brampton continues to position itself as a hub for innovation and business excellence, attracting top talent and industry leaders.



Source: City of Brampton Planning, Building and Permits Department 2024

## Investments in Brampton

### Stellantis MOPAR Grand Opening: \$25M Investment

Stellantis announced the official opening of their new 500,000 sq ft Canadian Parts Distribution Centre (PDC) in Brampton, representing an investment of \$25.1M, employing 250 workers. This first-ever Stellantis Parts & Services automated storage and retrieval system will service nearly 300 Stellantis dealers and their customers in Eastern Canada. This facility will also house their training centre for dealer shop technicians.

## Investments in Brampton

### SUN Pharma: \$30M Investment in its Brampton Facility

In 2024, SUN Pharma, the world's leading specialty generics company, invested \$30M in its Brampton facility, reinforcing its commitment to innovation and growth. Over the past 30 years, the facility grew to over 700 employees, manufacturing high-quality generic medicines for the Canadian and U.S. markets. With advanced R&D capabilities, the company continued to develop products faster and more efficiently than its competitors.

SUN Pharma's high-growth Global Specialty portfolio spans dermatology, ophthalmology and onco-dermatology, supporting its leadership in specialty, generics and consumer healthcare products. The Brampton site undertook major expansions to strengthen its position as a global pharmaceutical leader.





# Impact-Driven Growth



## Prologis' Eco-Friendly Distribution Centre

In 2024, Prologis Inc. completed construction on a first-of-its-kind 246,007 sq ft sustainable distribution centre at 5525 Countryside Drive, Brampton. By utilizing prefabricated panels and mass timber, Prologis is set to reduce embodied carbon emissions by 1,480 metric tons — equivalent to the annual emissions of 186 homes.

Strategically located in Brampton, a key economic hub with seamless connectivity to 400-series highways, reaching 158 million consumers and ranked #1 among mid-sized North American Cities of the Future for connectivity.

This development reinforces Brampton's commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable innovation, positioning the city as a leader in eco-friendly industrial growth. The project is targeting LEED Silver certification, further demonstrating a shared dedication to a greener future.

## Impact Driven Growth



## SHW Automotive: Growing in the Right Direction

SHW Automotive, a global supplier of advanced engine and transmission pumps, continues to grow its North American operations from Brampton.

Since launching in 2014 with one customer, SHW now supports five major automakers—GM, Linamar, Stellantis, Cummins and Ford—with more partnerships ahead. In Q2 2025, Mayor Patrick Brown will join SHW Canada for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate its newest oil pump customer—a \$5M investment, adding 15 new jobs.

SHW's revenue has risen from \$13.5M in 2020 to \$37.5M in 2024, targeting \$60M by 2025 and \$100M by 2030. This growth has fueled demand for skilled workers in Brampton, expanding from 16 to 50 employees in four years, with more positions expected in the future.

## Investments in Brampton



## Heart Lake Business Park Awarded Industrial Development of the Year

Brampton's Heart Lake Business Park was awarded **Industrial Development of the Year** at the Real Estate Excellence (REX) Awards in 2024. The award-winning project was developed by Berkshire Axis Development, Fiera Real Estate, Cecchini Group Inc., Ware Malcomb, Lemay, Cushman & Wakefield and Citi Brokers. This state-of-the-art industrial hub is home to leading tenants including Handi Foods, Wilson Tool Canada, CNH, I2R and Lecangs, further reinforcing Brampton's position as a prime destination for industrial growth, investment and economic development.



## Investments in Brampton

### MDA Space's 200,000 sq ft Expansion in Brampton

MDA Space, a global leader in space technology, selected Brampton for its **new 200,000 sq ft Space Robotics Centre of Excellence**—a state-of-the-art facility that will support its expansion in the commercial space robotics market. This facility houses 700 employees, including skilled engineers and boasts a highly talented and diverse workforce.

In June 2024, MDA Space secured a \$1 billion contract with the Canadian Space Agency for the next phase of the Canadarm3 program, propelling Brampton to the forefront of space exploration and technology.

A key factor in MDA Space's decision was the City's ability to layer multiple incentives—including the **Tax Increment Equivalent Grant (TIEG), Development Charges exemption and Expeditor Services**—to fuel its growth. By working closely with the City of Brampton and development partner Kaneff, MDA Space saved approximately \$2.5M in the building of its head office and R&D centre at Financial Drive & Highway 407, a cutting-edge facility that includes:

- Advanced research and development (R&D) and manufacturing capabilities
- A high-tech Space Robotics Mission Control Centre for global operations
- Assembly, integration and testing facilities for next-generation technology





## The City of Brampton's business incentives played a key role in attracting MDA's state-of-the-art Space Robotics Centre of Excellence to Brampton.

The Office Exemption is just one example of how the City is fostering a business-friendly environment, ensuring that companies not only establish themselves in Brampton but also thrive and grow.

For developers looking to establish or expand their office footprint, Brampton's message is clear: **Build big, save more and grow in a city that's ready for the future**

Learn how this exemption can benefit your next project  
[Amanda.Leard@brampton.ca](mailto:Amanda.Leard@brampton.ca)



## HelloFresh Expands in Brampton, Strengthening the Food Supply Chain and Creating 600 New Jobs

HelloFresh expanded into Brampton, opening a **200,000 sq ft facility and creating 600 new jobs**. From this strategic location, HelloFresh distributes its popular meal kits across Ontario, Quebec, and St. John's, Newfoundland, reinforcing Brampton's role as a key player in Canada's food and beverage supply chain.

This milestone highlights Brampton's dynamic growth, attracting industry leaders and fostering job creation and economic development. With a thriving food processing and distribution sector, Brampton continues to be a prime destination for business expansion and investment.

## Handi Foods Invests \$25M in New Brampton Facility, Creating 175 Jobs

Handi Foods Ltd. celebrated the grand opening of its first manufacturing facility in Brampton, located at 15 Newkirk Court. This **significant \$25M investment created 175 jobs**, bolstering the local economy and contributing to the city's robust food and beverage processing industry.

The establishment of this new facility in Brampton shows the company's commitment to meeting growing consumer demand and expanding its production capabilities.

Mayor Patrick Brown remarked, "Handi Foods' investment in Brampton is a testament to our city's thriving food and beverage sector. We are proud to welcome them to our community and look forward to their continued success."

This new facility not only strengthens Brampton's position as a hub for food processing but also aligns with the city's economic development goals of attracting innovative and forward-thinking companies.

Mayor Brown and Councillor Brar with Handi Foods' CEO, Brian Arbique and Vice President of Operations, John Dobie.





## Key Projects & Initiatives

### Brampton Hosts Second Annual Food and Beverage Processing Summit

On September 13, 2024, the City of Brampton hosted its Second Annual Food and Beverage Processing Summit at the Millennium Gardens Centre. The event convened industry leaders, government officials and community stakeholders to address challenges and opportunities within Ontario's food and beverage sector.

The summit featured opening remarks by Mayor Patrick Brown, followed by a fireside chat on strategies for hiring and retaining young talent, moderated by Councillor Rowena Santos. A panel discussion provided insights into business resources available to companies, with contributions from financial institutions and industry experts. The event also included an interview with Sherry Aziz, CFO of Amir Quality Meats, highlighting leadership and innovation in the industry.

With over 300 food and beverage companies contributing significantly to Brampton's economy, the summit underscored the city's commitment to fostering growth and collaboration in this vital sector. The event provided a platform for networking, knowledge sharing and exploring avenues for sustainable development within the industry.



Isabel Dopta, Program Director, CareersNOW!, Food and Beverage Ontario and Farah Mohamed, CEO, The King's Trust Canada





## Powersmiths Unveils State-of-the-Art Factory in Brampton

On June 11, 2024, Powersmiths International Corp., a member of the Socomec Group, celebrated the grand opening of its third facility in Brampton. Powersmiths, established in 1996, has been at the forefront of energy-efficient power distribution and control systems, providing cutting-edge solutions for commercial, industrial and institutional clients across North America.

The new state-of-the-art factory is designed to enhance production capacity, meet surging demand and support future growth, ensuring the company remains a leader in the industry. This significant investment not only bolsters Brampton's reputation as a hub for sustainability and technological advancement but also contributes to the local economy by creating numerous job opportunities.

The new facility, a beacon of cutting-edge technology and sustainability, reflects Powersmiths' growth and ongoing pledge to support the local economy.

**“ We are excited about this milestone and the opportunities it brings to strengthen our partnerships and better serve our customers.”**

**- Michele Putignano, Chief Executive Officer of Socomec North America**

## CUBE Building Systems Expands in Brampton

Brampton continues to attract innovative businesses that drive economic growth and job creation. CUBE Building Systems has officially opened its doors in Brampton, bringing a significant investment into the city and generating 60 new jobs in the local economy.

As a leader in sustainable and efficient modular home construction, CUBE is reshaping the future of housing by combining innovation, efficiency and inclusivity. The company places a strong emphasis on hiring women in trades, creating new career pathways and promoting workforce diversity in the construction sector.

Brampton's strong manufacturing ecosystem and skilled labour force make it an ideal location for CUBE. With the demand for affordable and sustainable housing solutions on the rise, this investment reinforces Brampton's position as a hub for advanced manufacturing and construction innovation.





## Millfield Business Park

Millfield Business Park, spanning 13.5 acres and strategically located just north of Highway 407 at the pivotal intersection of Mississauga Road and Edgeware Road, this visionary project features a state-of-the-art, four-storey office building alongside three premier industrial facilities.

Designed to attract high-calibre businesses, Millfield Business Park not only elevates Brampton's commercial landscape but also reinforces its reputation as a dynamic hub for innovation and growth.

This significant investment is poised to drive economic development by offering a versatile mix of industrial, retail and office spaces, meeting the evolving needs of both established companies and emerging enterprises.

## Investments in Brampton

### Berkshire Axis and Fiera Real Estate: New Development Coming to Brampton

Brampton's industrial sector continues to thrive with the recent acquisition of 19 acres of prime land by Berkshire Axis Development and Fiera Real Estate. Strategically located at Dixie Road and Mayfield Road, this prime site offers unmatched connectivity and accessibility.

The proposed development will feature six buildings totaling 355,000 sq ft, designed to accommodate manufacturing, warehousing and logistics tenants. Its location, just minutes from Highway 410, ensures seamless connectivity and access to a strong local labor force.

This project reinforces Brampton's position as a prime destination for industrial investment, driving economic growth and employment opportunities in the region.





# Business Milestones in Brampton



**150 Years:**



The Stevens Company



**60 Years:**



Harris-Stolper



**50 Years:**



Zochem



**50 Years:**



ALMAG Aluminum



**50 Years:**



GoCold Solutions Inc



**50 Years:**



SEW Eurodrive



**40 Years:**



**NexCycle**



**40 Years:**



**Valle Foam**



**40 Years:**



**SUN Pharma**



**30 Years:**



**Plastcoat Ltd, Division of Magna International**



**10 Years:**



**Amazon Fulfillment Centre-YYZ3**



## Key Projects & Initiatives:

### MedTech Conference

In October 2024, the City of Brampton showcased its medical technology and health ecosystem at the Global MedTech Conference in Toronto – hosted in Canada for the first time — with 4,000+ attendees from 48 countries and 1,900+ exhibitors.

Deputy Mayor Singh and Councillor Toor, Chair of Economic Development, led a panel discussion highlighting the Brampton Innovation District, engaging with global investors, researchers and industry leaders – further cementing Brampton’s position as a global hub for medical technology and research.



From left to right: Deputy Mayor Singh; Alison Smith, CEO & Co-founder of Roga Life; Saumik Biswas, CEO & Founder of Tenomix; Philip Mohabir, CEO of Vivo Surgery; Councillor Toor, Chair of Economic Development.

# ▶ MedTech Task Force: Driving Investment and Research

Established in 2022, the MedTech Task Force is committed to driving medical innovation, investment and workforce development in Brampton. Its key objectives include:

- Attracting new investments to support science, research and commercialization
- Developing and strengthening Brampton’s position as a leader in medical technology innovation
- Supporting the development of highly skilled jobs and training opportunities in the medical industry

Comprised of representatives of the business, academic and development community – and supported by City staff – the Task Force provided Council with recommendations on future direction of the medical technology sector and the new TMU medical school. In 2024, a key focus for the MedTech Task Force was the CBRE Feasibility of Wet Labs in Brampton study, now under review by City staff and stakeholders.







## Key Projects & Initiatives

### TMU School of Medicine: Transforming Brampton's Economic and Healthcare Landscape

The Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU) School of Medicine, set to open in Brampton in 2025, is poised to make a transformative impact on the local economy, job market and healthcare innovation ecosystem. Over the next nine years, the school's activities are projected to generate \$1.2 to 2.6 billion in economic activity, significantly supporting and driving Brampton's economic growth.

The school is set to drive job growth, expected to create 1,500 faculty jobs, primarily located in Brampton, while funding between 12,000 and 16,000 full-time equivalent jobs within its broader operations over six years. This influx of high-quality health science jobs will establish Brampton as a key player in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) life sciences cluster, attracting top talent and businesses.

The school aims to become a hub for research and innovation, leveraging TMU's existing research and commercialization infrastructure to drive cutting-edge healthcare advancements. This initiative is set to reinforce Brampton's status as a leader in medical innovation.

### William Osler Health System (Osler) Unveils the Osler Research Institute for Health Innovation (ORIH)

This initiative aims to drive health care advancements, bringing innovative treatments and enhanced patient care to the Brampton community.

Building on over a decade of research, ORIH serves as a dynamic hub for collaboration among health care professionals, technology experts and academic partners. Its focus spans three key pillars: Population Health, Personalized Health and Health Systems. By addressing the diverse needs of the community, tailoring health interventions and optimizing health care structures, ORIH is poised to make a significant impact on patient outcomes.

The launch event featured a series of sessions, including panel discussions and interactive exhibits, attracting over 1,100 in-person attendees and hundreds more online. Collaborations with more than 25 partner organizations, such as the City of Brampton and Toronto Metropolitan University, underscore ORIH's commitment to fostering innovation through partnership.

As Brampton continues to evolve as a hub for health care innovation, the establishment of ORIH marks a pivotal step in enhancing the well-being of its residents and positioning the city at the forefront of medical research and development.



# ► Supporting Advanced Manufacturing and Skilled Trades

## Centres of Excellence & Initiatives

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**Sheridan College, Centre for Intelligent Manufacturing (CIM):** a cutting-edge research and innovation hub which merges technology and innovation to develop new solutions and address manufacturing challenges. The centre collaborates with businesses of all sizes and specializes in areas such as digital tools, simulation, modeling and the integration of artificial intelligence into manufacturing systems and products.

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**Sheridan College, Magna Skilled Trades Centre:** a state-of-the-art, three-story facility that is dedicated to skilled trades and apprenticeships programs including: CNC Machining, Construction, Electrical, Plumbing, Welding and General Machinists. It aims to address the growing demand for skilled trades professionals by providing students with practical, industry-relevant education. The centre also fosters innovation and collaboration with local industries, ensuring graduates are well-prepared for the workforce.

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**Sheridan College, Centre for Applied AI (CAAI):** this centre is at the forefront of research in the development and application of artificial intelligence. The centre collaborates with industry and community partners, researchers and students to harness the transformative power of AI.

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**Sheridan College, Women in Red Seal Skilled Trades Program:** this initiative encourages women to pursue Red Seal certification in skilled trades, offering mentorship, networking and resources.

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**Sheridan College, Try the Trades:** an initiative designed to introduce middle and high school students through hands-on experiences in trades like welding, electrical techniques, construction and more.

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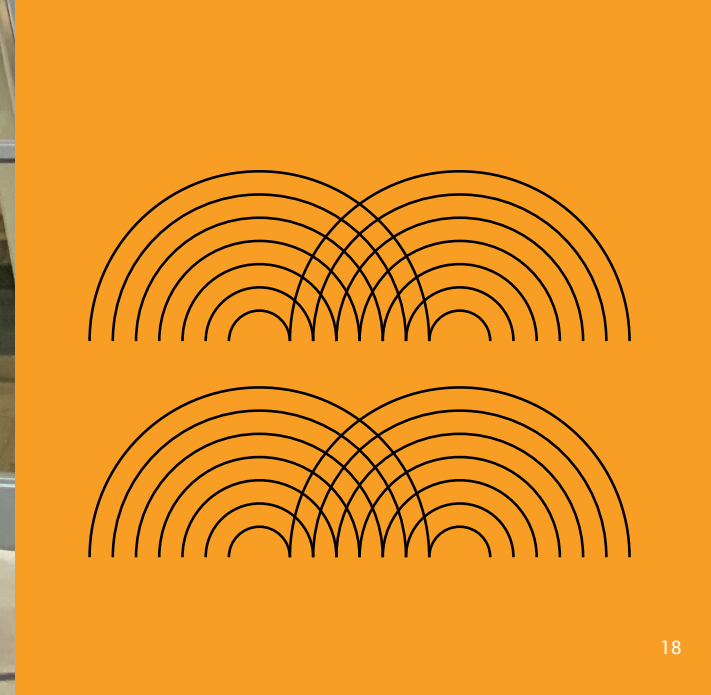
## Key Projects & Initiatives

### Women in Manufacturing: Advancing Opportunities in Skilled Trades

In January 2024, an exciting announcement at Sheridan College marked a major step forward for women in skilled trades in Brampton. With a \$2M investment from the Government of Canada and \$300,000 from Unifor National, a specialized program has launched at Sheridan's Magna Centre for Skilled Trades—along with partner colleges—to recruit, train and retain women in Red Seal Skilled Trades. This initiative is critical in addressing the gender gap in skilled trades, where women currently represent only 5% of the workforce.

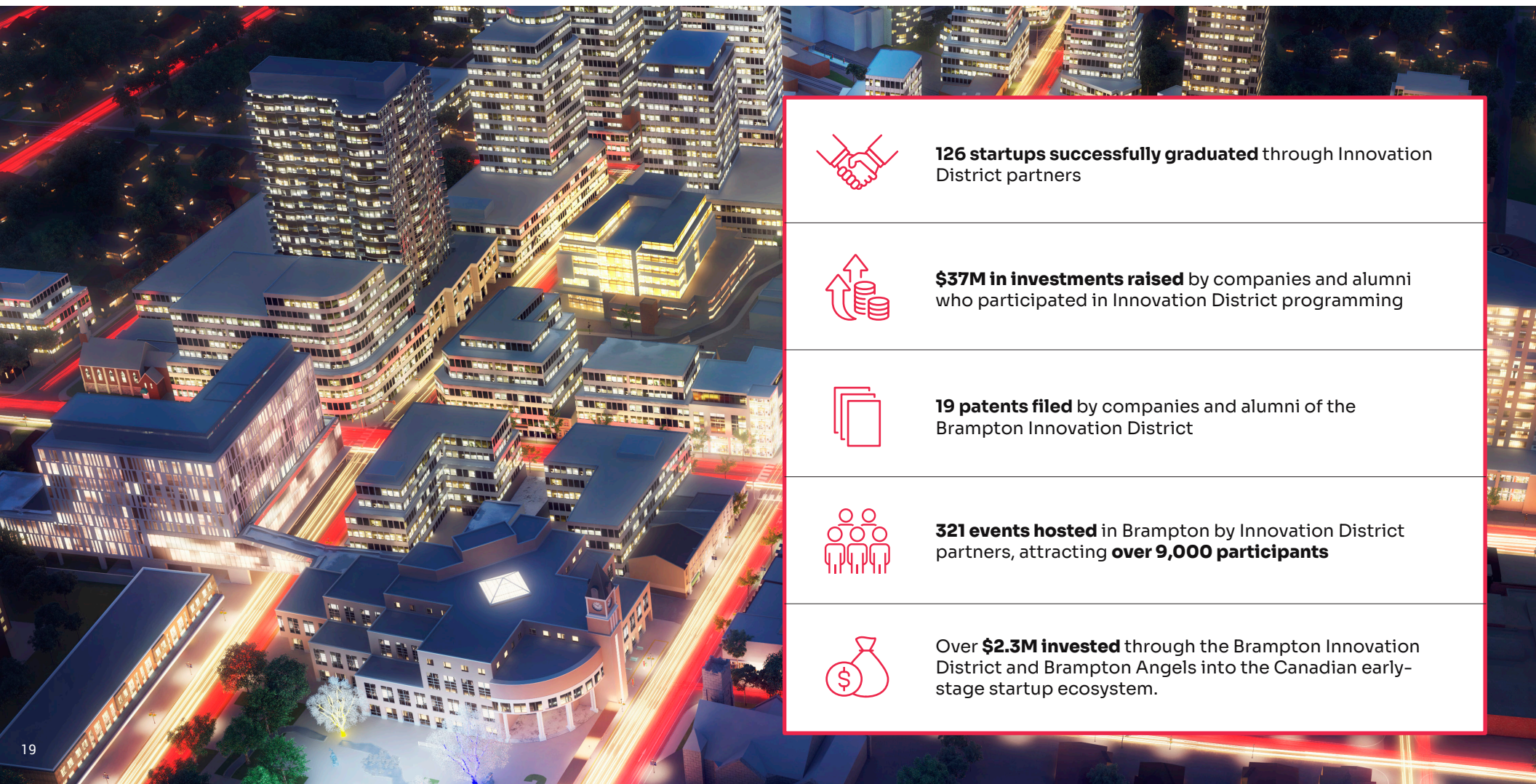
Building on this momentum, the City of Brampton's Economic Development Office hosted its first-ever Women in Manufacturing event on September 25, 2024, in collaboration with Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CME). Held at Terrace on the Green, the event focused on increasing female representation in manufacturing, a sector where women currently hold just 28% of jobs. In 2024, Canada reached a record high of over 526,000 women employed in manufacturing — the highest percentage in four decades.

By increasing representation and breaking down barriers, these investments and initiatives are shaping a more inclusive and dynamic workforce. They not only empower women to thrive in manufacturing and skilled trades but also strengthen Brampton's advanced manufacturing sector and pave the way for safer, more equitable workplaces for future generations.





## ► Highlights from Brampton's Innovation District



**126 startups successfully graduated** through Innovation District partners



**\$37M in investments raised** by companies and alumni who participated in Innovation District programming



**19 patents filed** by companies and alumni of the Brampton Innovation District



**321 events hosted** in Brampton by Innovation District partners, attracting **over 9,000 participants**



Over **\$2.3M invested** through the Brampton Innovation District and Brampton Angels into the Canadian early-stage startup ecosystem.

# Our strong partnerships are the foundation of the Innovation District:



# ▶ Innovation District Year in Review



Cyber Range: An immersive platform for real-world cybersecurity training and threat simulation.

## Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst:

Headquartered in Brampton, Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst drives cybersecurity training, innovation and public education. Its industry-leading programs and Cyber Range equips businesses and individuals to tackle cyber threats.

In 2024, the Annual Catalyst Summit: Democracy Edition, brought together hundreds of cyber leaders and experts to discuss the critical intersection of cybersecurity and democracy.

With a commitment to excellence, the Catalyst positions Brampton as a global leader in cyber innovation and talent development.



## Brampton Next:

In October 2024, B Hive introduced Brampton Next, a free 14-week bootcamp equipping 100 entrepreneurs with training, coaching and resources to grow their businesses and thrive in Brampton.



### Brampton Venture Expo 2024:

Brampton Venture Expo, hosted by the Brampton Venture Zone, welcomed 1,700+ registrations, featuring 51 exhibitors, 12 speakers and key networking opportunities, reinforcing Brampton's role as a growing tech hub.



### Brampton Angels:

Brampton Angels is a members-only not-for-profit organization of accredited investors. In 2024, over 30 companies pitched to angel investors, securing over \$2.3M in funding, while membership expanded to 55 investors, demonstrating Brampton's commitment to supporting early stage technology and innovation.

Louis Sapi, Chair of Brampton Angels



## Brampton Hosts First City-led Hackathon

In November 2024, the City of Brampton hosted BramHacks, a city-led hackathon that welcomed approximately 150 post-secondary students from the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. Over three days, participants collaborated to develop innovative solutions addressing local challenges surrounding transportation and sustainability. With Amazon as the title sponsor and support from key partners such as Algoma University, Sheridan College and Toronto Metropolitan University, the event provided a dynamic platform for participants to showcase their skills. The event featured workshops on transportation, sustainability, open data and data visualization, providing participants with valuable insights and skills.

### First Place:

Nocturnal Nappers developed BramWays, a user-friendly app designed to empower caregivers by providing real-time updates on transit journeys for dependents, focusing on accessibility and ease of use.

The success of BramHacks 2024 underscores Brampton's commitment to fostering innovation and collaboration within the community.



## Moonshot 2024: Driving Forward Community Collaboration

In December 2024, the City of Brampton and its partners put together Moonshot – an event introducing youth to different pathways within the space economy. Hosted by Canon Canada in collaboration with InspireTech Canada, the Moonshot 2024 Career & Exploration Event connected 150 Grade 12 students from the Peel District School Board with industry leaders and organizations like MDA Space.

These future STEM stars had a blast diving into the world of space and rocketry, testing rovers, launching rockets and networking with experts in the field. The event was an inspiring experience, sparking curiosity and excitement about the limitless possibilities of aeronautics and space exploration – demonstrating that the Brampton Innovation District is leading the charge to position Canada for a \$40B space economy by 2040.



## Innovation District Highlights

### **SPS Commerce Empowers Brampton's Next Generation**

Based in Brampton, SPS Commerce is a tech company that creates software solutions which help businesses streamline their supply chain processes and improve collaboration with trading partners.

This year, SPS Commerce deepened their commitment to Brampton by supporting future tech leaders through local hackathons, providing a platform for innovation and collaboration.

Mentorship is key to their efforts: SPS Commerce employees dedicate time to guiding young tech talent through one-on-one sessions and initiatives like the University of Waterloo co-op program.

By sharing industry expertise and career insights, they empower the next generation to excel.

With a strong presence in Brampton, SPS Commerce is proud to invest in the city's growing tech ecosystem, fostering a more innovative future.



## Innovation District Highlights

### **Brampton's Innovation District Showcased at The Gathering & Collision**

In 2024, Brampton made history by hosting “The Gathering,” a pre-conference event for the Collision Conference at The Rose Theatre in downtown Brampton. This inaugural North American event attracted 200 international startups with panel discussion and breakout sessions. A highlight of the event was “Future-Proofing Your Startup: Harnessing Cybersecurity for Success,” moderated by Charles Finlay, Executive Director of Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst, with insights from industry experts. The presence of Collision founder Paddy Cosgrave, underscored Brampton's growing influence in the global tech industry.

Following The Gathering, Brampton's Economic Development Office, in partnership with the Innovation District collaborators, showcased the dynamic entrepreneurial ecosystem at the Collision Conference.

The City of Brampton's booth, known as “The Games Room,” served as a vibrant networking hub, featuring pitch sessions and various panel discussions. These activities highlighted Brampton's commitment to fostering innovation and supporting startups.

The success of the booth was bolstered by the continuous support from partners such as Altitude Accelerator, Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst, BHive, Brampton Venture Zone by TMU, Algoma University, the Unity Centre for Excellence and Sheridan College.





# Empowering Brampton's Entrepreneurs



**The Brampton Entrepreneur Centre (BEC)** is the hub for supporting entrepreneurs in Brampton. Whether you're starting a new business or looking to grow, BEC offers a range of services, programs and resources tailored to your needs. From free consultations to business plan reviews and access to funding opportunities, BEC is dedicated to helping businesses thrive.



## 2024 Highlights: Brampton Entrepreneur Centre



**1,635**  
Consultations



**100** Events hosted with over  
**8,500** participants



Summer Company Program:  
**Total Awarded:  
\$45,000**  
in \$3K grants to 15 students



**13,000**  
Inquiries



**118** Businesses received  
digital transformation support



Starter Company Plus Program:  
**Total Awarded:  
\$200,000**  
in \$5K grants to 40 entrepreneurs



## BEC 2024 Client Spotlight

### Earthworks, 30 Year Anniversary Owners – Samantha & Robert Ragbirsingh

Celebrating 30 years, Earthworks—founded by Samantha and Robert—has evolved from its humble beginnings in a 500 sq ft basement to a prominent spiritual hub at Kingspoint Plaza. Since 1994, Earthworks has been Brampton’s go-to destination for crystals, tarot cards, incense, and more, offering a one-stop shop for all things spiritual. Available for purchase in-store and online, Earthworks enhanced its digital presence in 2024 with support from BEC’s Digital Service Squad. This effort strengthened its ability to connect with customers, reinforcing its reputation as a trusted destination for spiritual exploration and growth.

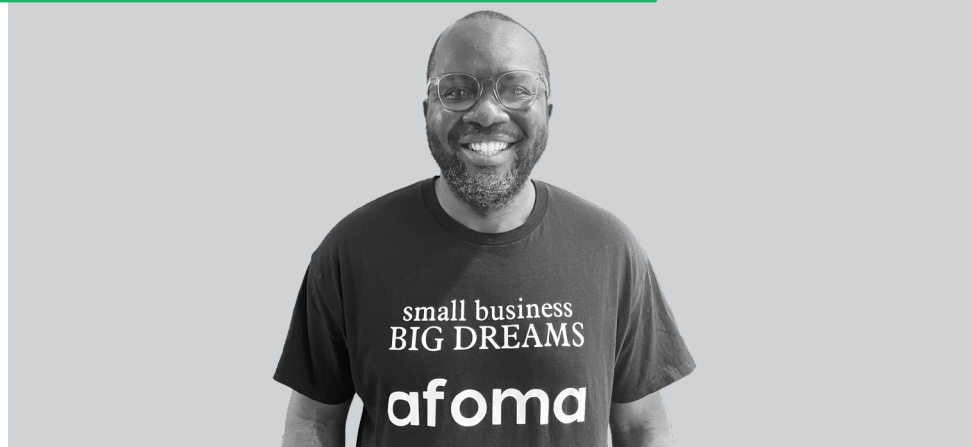
## BEC 2024 Client Spotlight



### Food Fight BBQ, Owner – Julian Gayah

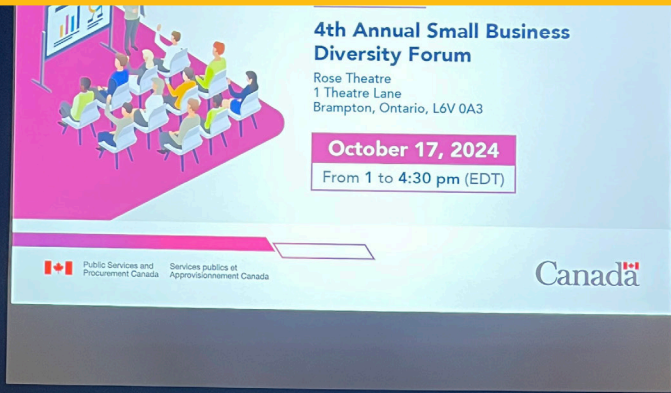
Founded in 2017 by Brampton native Julian Gayah, Food Fight BBQ is a proud recipient of the 2024 Starter Company Plus Grant. Known for its authentic slow-smoked barbecue with a Canadian twist, the restaurant serves up smoked brisket, ribs, award-winning wings and more—crafted with fresh, local ingredients. Catering to Brampton’s diverse community, Food Fight BBQ offers dine-in, online ordering and catering services, delivering legendary flavours at great prices that bring people together.

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### AFOMA Marketplace, Owner – Eric Osuorah

Founded in 2021, AFOMA is revolutionizing the handicraft sector by empowering marginalized artisans with a sustainable, inclusive alternative to traditional marketplaces. By leveraging blockchain technology, AFOMA ensures artisans retain 90% of their earnings while reaching a global audience, bridging gaps, celebrating diversity and fostering community empowerment. AFOMA Marketplace is also a proud recipient of the 2024 Starter Company Plus Grant.



## Brampton Hosts Small Business Diversity Forum

In 2024, the City of Brampton collaborated with Procurement Assistance Canada (PAC) to host a workshop aimed at empowering local businesses to navigate federal procurement processes. The event provided entrepreneurs and business owners with insights into securing government contracts, understanding procurement opportunities, and accessing resources to enhance their competitiveness in the federal marketplace.

This initiative underscores Brampton's commitment to fostering economic growth by connecting local enterprises with federal opportunities, thereby strengthening the city's business ecosystem.

## Brampton's Third Annual Reverse Vendor Trade Show

The City of Brampton hosted its third annual Reverse Vendor Trade Show, bringing together 500 attendees to connect with City staff, explore procurement opportunities and learn about doing business with the City. A joint initiative with the Purchasing team and Brampton Entrepreneur Centre, the event reinforced the City's commitment to transparency, accessibility and expanding its vendor base.





# Chapter 50: Celebrating a Legacy of Growth & Innovation



## International Relations

### Brampton Welcomes the World

In 2024, the City of Brampton's Economic Development Office welcomed a number of delegations fostering global partnerships and investment opportunities. Delegations included:

- United Kingdom
- Northern Ireland
- Philippines
- Fiji
- St. Kitts and Nevis
- Lagos Business School, Nigeria

The city also hosted the Brampton-Barbados Business Forum, strengthening economic ties and trade collaboration. These engagements showcased Brampton's thriving business ecosystem, reinforcing its position as a key hub for international investment and expansion.

### Golden Jubilee Luncheon with the Consular Corps

On Tuesday, September 24, 2024, Brampton welcomed esteemed members of the Consular Corps to a special Golden Jubilee Luncheon at the historic Alderlea.

This milestone event, set in the heart of Brampton's Innovation District, commemorated 50 years of growth, international collaboration and cultural vibrancy.

The presence of the Consular Corps underscores the global partnerships that have shaped Brampton into a dynamic, forward-thinking city.



Site Selection Award



Economic Development Organization of the Year

AAA

AAA Credit Rating



Plan Ontario Vision Award of Excellence



BILD Municipal Benchmarking Recognition



Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

