

# 2018 **Year in Review**

## ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

# Message from the MAYOR

Vaughan is a city on the rise.

As one of the fastest-growing municipalities in Canada, we maintain an approach to city-building that is focused on innovation, strategic investments and seizing every opportunity to take our city to the next level.

Since 2010, more than 60,000 jobs have been created and \$11 billion in building permits have been issued. A recent survey of Vaughan business owners found an outstanding 91 per cent are satisfied with the delivery of our City services. Vaughan proudly maintains the highest employment rate in York Region and leads with an employment growth rate of four per cent that far outpaces Ontario and Canada. These robust figures represent a strong market, a destination of choice and a prosperous place to call home.

Our City draws inspiration from the dedicated and hard-working entrepreneurs who have chosen Vaughan as the incubator for a new idea, the place

to execute their business plans or commit to a longer-term vision for expansion.

Vaughan has become a strong economic engine in Ontario by creating a business-friendly climate, attracting new investments and enabling job creation. These remain key priorities in our strategic plan, which will serve as a road map to guide the City's efforts for the 2018–2022 Term of Council. Through the ongoing dedication of our Economic and Cultural Development team, we are committed to carrying this momentum through 2019 and beyond.

We look forward to continuing our tradition of providing Service Excellence to our residents and Vaughan's thriving business community.

Yours sincerely,



Hon. Maurizio Bevilacqua, P.C.  
Mayor

## 2018-2022 City of Vaughan Members of Council

First row, left to right:  
Linda D. Jackson, Regional Councillor;  
Gino Rosati, Regional Councillor;  
Hon. Maurizio Bevilacqua, P.C., Mayor;  
Mario Ferri, Regional Councillor, Deputy Mayor.

Second row, left to right:  
Alan Shefman, Ward 5 Councillor;  
Sandra Yeung Racco, Ward 4 Councillor;  
Rosanna DeFrancesca, Ward 3 Councillor;  
Tony Carella, Ward 2 Councillor;  
Marilyn Iafrate, Ward 1 Councillor.





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# Vaughan

**80.5%**

## SMALL BUSINESS **DRIVES Vaughan**

### BUSINESSES BY SIZE: 2018<sup>2</sup>

**SMALL** (1–19 employees): 9,683

**MEDIUM** (20–99 employees): 1,913

**LARGE** (100–499 employees): 376

**VERY LARGE** (500+ employees): 22

Continued  
**strong demand**  
from Vaughan's  
entrepreneurs.

## Healthy and stable economy

**4.3%**

**unemployment rate<sup>1</sup>**

*Well below the national rate  
of 5.6% and provincial rate  
of 5.4%.<sup>5</sup>*

As a member of the Ontario Network of Entrepreneurs (ONE),  
Small Business and Entrepreneurship:

**...ASSISTED**  
the **start or growth** of  
**245**  
**BUSINESSES**  
in Vaughan.<sup>8</sup>



**...DELIVERED**  
**1,041** one-on-one  
consultations.<sup>8</sup>

**...ANSWERED**  
**4,658**  
walk-in, phone or  
email inquiries.<sup>8</sup>

**...PROVIDED**  
**59 seminars** in business  
planning, marketing,  
finances, sales and  
operation to

**1,115 participants.<sup>8</sup>**



Largest goods-  
producing centre by  
**EMPLOYMENT**  
in York Region:

**35%** of  
**ALL JOBS**  
in Vaughan are  
found within the  
**goods-producing  
industry.<sup>2</sup>**

**Surpassing  
national and  
provincial  
growth:**

**TOTAL EMPLOYMENT**  
**222,158**

(1.8% GROWTH YEAR-OVER-YEAR<sup>3</sup>)

**DOUBLE** the National Average<sup>5</sup>

## A CORPORATE HQ LOCATION:

**184 companies** identified Vaughan as their  
Canadian or Regional headquarters, **37 of which**  
**had 100 or more employees.<sup>2</sup>**

# MARKET SNAPSHOT 2018

## INDUSTRIAL POWERHOUSE

in the GREATER TORONTO AREA



**4<sup>th</sup>** **LARGEST**  
industrial market in the  
Greater Toronto Area.<sup>6</sup>



**\$1.1 BILLION**

in building permits  
issued in 2018.<sup>7</sup>

**TOP 10** in **Canada**  
Value of non-residential permits<sup>9</sup>

## FASTEST-GROWING urban centre in York Region:



**330,563**  
RESIDENTS<sup>4</sup>



**70%**  
of adults aged  
25-64 have earned  
**post-secondary  
accreditation.**<sup>3</sup>



**2%**  
population  
increase,  
2017-2018<sup>4</sup>

## LARGEST CONTRIBUTOR TO YORK REGION ECONOMY:

Real Gross  
Domestic Product

**\$20.6  
BILLION<sup>1</sup>**

(36% of York Region)

### Top 3 Industries by EMPLOYMENT<sup>2</sup>



**MANUFACTURING**  
**48,615** jobs



**CONSTRUCTION**  
**29,474** jobs



**RETAIL TRADE**  
**24,577** jobs

## Vaughan

IS THE **LARGEST EMPLOYMENT  
CENTRE** IN YORK REGION.

**222,158 jobs<sup>2</sup>: 12,105 businesses<sup>2</sup>**



6. Colliers International, Industrial Market Report Q4, 2018  
7. City of Vaughan, Building Standards department, 2018

8. City of Vaughan, Economic and Cultural Development department, 2018  
9. Statistics Canada, Building Permits Data, 2018



# A Connected Economy





Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (VMC) Mobility Hub on Highway 7

Vaughan is a connected and modern city serviced by three existing subway stations, two commuter train stations, two railway yards, two bus systems, Toronto Pearson International Airport and Ontario's 400-series highways 400, 407 and 427. Vaughan's strategic location makes it a gateway for economic activity between the Greater Toronto Area and more than 300 million consumers.

The Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (VMC) Mobility Hub, including the VMC subway station and a YRT VIVA Station, marked its first anniversary in December 2018:

- About 15,000 people travelled through the Hub daily in 2018.<sup>1</sup>
- Estimates point to approximately 20,000 daily commuters this year.

Approximately 3,100 people use Vaughan's two GO commuter stations daily.<sup>2</sup>

Vaughan is located 10 minutes from Canada's largest and busiest airport. Toronto Pearson International Airport sees more than 44 million passengers annually and more than 456,000 domestic and international flights a year. Cargo movements from January to July 2018 was approximately 312,000 metric tonnes, up 4.5 per cent from the same period one year ago.<sup>3</sup>

Vaughan is home to top transportation terminals in Canada and North America:

- The Canadian Pacific (CP) Railway Vaughan Intermodal Terminal is connected to nine North American rail terminals and four major overseas shipping ports.
- The Canadian National (CN) MacMillan Classification Yard is one of the largest in Canada and reaches 75 per cent of consumers across North America.

High-speed internet is a key enabler of innovation and economic opportunity:

- YorkNet, a York Region-owned corporation, builds and manages approximately 200 kilometres of high-speed, open-access dark fibre across the region.

## IN THE NEWS

*Digital Realty, a global provider of data centres, co-location and interconnection solutions, opened the largest data centre in the country located in Vaughan representing a \$54-million investment.*

1. Toronto Transit Commission, 2018  
2. Metrolinx, 2018

3. Toronto Pearson International Airport, 2018



# **Talented and Diverse Workforce**





Niagara University in Cortel Group's Expo City on Highway 7 West at Maplecrete

Vaughan is a net importer of labour. The labour force has a nearly 70 per cent participation rate and 127,430 residents of Vaughan between the ages of 20 and 64 are employed,<sup>1</sup> while Vaughan's businesses employ 222,158<sup>2</sup> people.

## IN THE NEWS

*Vaughan-based Upstream Works Software Ltd. made Deloitte's 2018 Technology Fast 500 rankings list.*

Vaughan boasts a highly educated population, with 70 per cent of those aged 25 to 64 attaining post-secondary accreditation.<sup>3</sup>

**TOP THREE** occupational classifications of the employed labour force in Vaughan:<sup>4</sup>



Vaughan's talented workforce fosters corporate innovation and entrepreneurship. The percentage of workers in Vaughan with a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) background surpasses the national average according to 2016 Census data.

- The labour force employed in natural and applied sciences and related occupations is **1.32 times** more concentrated than the national average.

Vaughan has a strong support system for internationally trained talent, including but not limited to:

- COSTI Immigrant Services
- Welcome Centre Immigrant Services
- Gateway Conference, York Region's Conference for Internationally Educated Professionals

## IN THE NEWS

*Canadian Business and Maclean's listed Clearbridge Mobile on the 2018 Growth 500, the definitive ranking of Canada's fastest-growing companies!*

1. 2016 Census Profiles by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2019  
2. York Region Employment Survey, 2018

3. Statistics Canada, 2016 Census Data  
4. EMSI Analyst, 2018

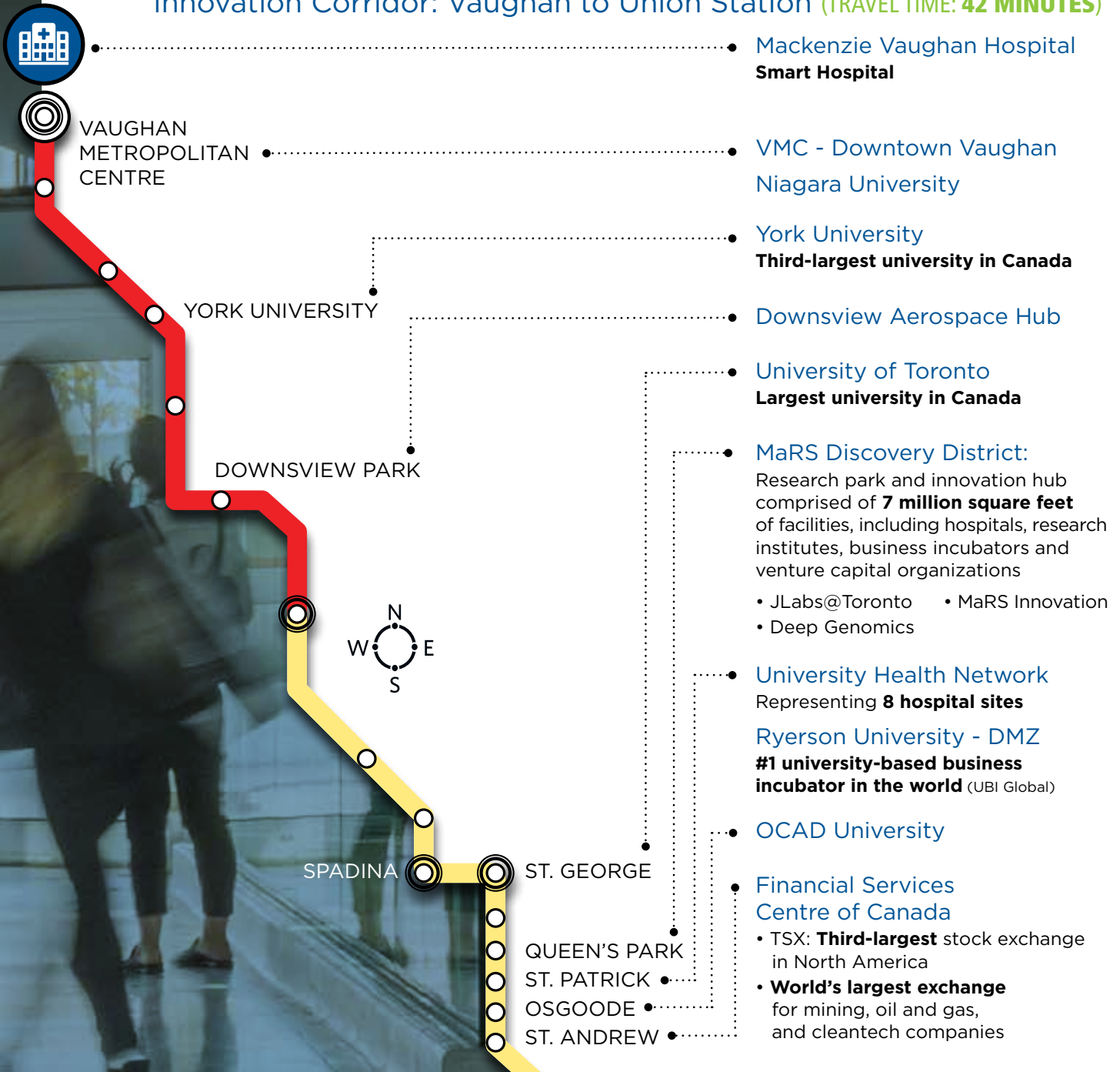


# **Supporting Entrepreneurs, Innovation and Growing Small Business**



Vaughan is at the heart of York Region's innovative economy with the future Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital and the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre, the city's emerging downtown. The city also includes Toronto's top research hospitals, incubators and innovation hubs such as: MaRS Discovery District and Ryerson's Digital Media Zone (DMZ) and the Centre for Social Innovation. Vaughan is also closely working with the Regional Innovation Centre ventureLAB on initiatives such as the Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital and supporting Vaughan's tech entrepreneurs.

## Innovation Corridor: Vaughan to Union Station (TRAVEL TIME: 42 MINUTES)





## IN THE NEWS

*York Entrepreneurship Development Institute ranks first in university-linked accelerator category by UBI Global in 2018.*

In June, Vaughan became the **first municipality in Canada** to be a lead partner on a Social Innovation Challenge, a pitch competition where innovators and entrepreneurs present solutions to community challenges. Focusing on proposals that have financial sustainability, positive social impact, or an environmentally friendly focus, the winning ideas receive the support of business and community mentors and start-up funding to assist in launching their venture.

Following the success of the first challenge in June, Vaughan hosted a second Social Innovation Challenge in December. Across both pitch competitions, the City hosted more than **70 entrepreneurs** who registered to pitch and enlisted the support of more than **50 community mentors**.



*Lyn Chen, co-founder of Candy Cutlery at Vaughan's Social Innovation Challenge*



*Entrepreneurs participating in Vaughan's Social Innovation Challenge.*

The **Social Innovation Challenge** was one of, if not the most, positive competition experiences I've ever had. Not only did I get the chance to pitch the business idea, Candy Cutlery, to a socially driven audience, but I even got the chance to refine my presentation skills alongside mentors and other competitors.

*~ Lyn Chen, co-founder, Candy Cutlery*

With a strong entrepreneurial base and talented workforce, Vaughan is a great place to start or grow a business. The City offers many resources to help startups and small businesses to succeed. Vaughan's two entrepreneurship programs are the largest in York Region delivering training, mentorship and provincial grants to local entrepreneurs.

## Starter Company Plus

The Starter Company Plus program helps new and existing businesses gain access to resources, training, mentorship, networking and funding opportunities. Regardless of the type of small business—an innovative creative company, a technology startup, a professional or medical service enterprise or otherwise—the program provides entrepreneurs with tools for success.

### 2018 PROGRAM IMPACT:

- 61 entrepreneurs received funding in the program
- 182 entrepreneurs participated in the training and mentorship
- 98 businesses started or expanded
- 104 jobs created
- Businesses included: Dance studios, law firms, farm-to-table food delivery, 3D printing, mobile apps, interior design and architecture, robotics, film production, dental hygiene and more!

## Summer Company

Summer Company fosters the next generation of talent and aims to support youth as they explore entrepreneurship as a career option. Students can take advantage of their interests in everything from social media and photography to sports and jewelry to create successful enterprises. With hands-on coaching and mentoring from local business leaders, these young people are forging their own path to success.

### 2018 PROGRAM IMPACT:

- 17 new student entrepreneurs participated in the program
- 30 jobs created
- 16 of 17 students plan to continue their businesses part-time after the program during the 2018–2019 school year
- The young entrepreneurs opened a variety of businesses offering: mobile bike repair, custom hand-crafted furniture, a summer camp, photography and videography, dance classes, skin care and more!



2018 Summer Company program participants



## Collaborating to Build Success



[ripplefarms.ca](http://ripplefarms.ca)

Ripple Farms uses hydroponics to create vertical farms which can grow food in urban environments without the use of soil, fertilizer or pesticides. Their greenhouses and education programs enable urban communities to grow food locally and sustainably, and increase their resiliency to the threats of climate change.

As a winner of the Vaughan Social Innovation Challenge, Ripple Farms received a Provincial Starter Company Plus grant, which has helped them invest in technology for their new 400-square-foot greenhouse in Vaughan. This new expansion is in partnership with another local social enterprise, DANI (Developing and Nurturing Independence). DANI is a non-profit organization that provides adults with physical and cognitive disabilities with opportunities to develop skills and access meaningful employment. The new greenhouse provides an



*Microgreens grown at the DANI greenhouse in Vaughan.*



*Brian Waller, co-founder of Ripple Farms and Kyle Webster, executive chef of Farm'r*

exciting opportunity for DANI participants to develop urban farming skills and hands-on experience with hydroponic technology. The produce grown at the farm will be used as ingredients in the food that DANI prepares for its café and catering company or will be sold to local restaurateurs and grocers.

“We are very proud that this new partnership has allowed our team at Ripple Farms to bring our expertise in the agriculture industry to help a social enterprise like DANI explore new avenues of providing value to their participants and community.”

*~ Brian Waller, co-founder, Ripple Farms*



Movement Chiropractic & Rehab offers acupuncture, rehab, soft tissue therapy, joint mobilizations and manipulations that aim to address a patient's concern or pain regarding issues related to the muscles, joints and nervous system. They treat more than just low back and neck pain; they can treat every joint in the body and any type of muscle ache, aid in injury recovery and more.

Dr. Tari has always surrounded herself with supportive business associates—from her real estate agent to the general contractor to the interior designers she works with—she hires fellow entrepreneurs and people she grew up with. The program, however, also offered her a unique opportunity to collaborate with another program alumnus, Level Studio, to help design her clinic. Together with Level Studio, she incorporated the idea of a gallery wall to showcase local artists. The first artist to exhibit is Vinh Le from Level Studio using his photography. His body of work in the exhibit illustrates his passion and concern for our environment, his eco-missions worldwide and sustainability.

And what's next for her? "Anything and everything, I don't like to define myself by limits because I don't know what the future has in store for me. What I do know is that I love what I do, and I will continue to practice chiropractic for as long as I can."

“One of the concepts we explored together was my love of art. We developed a gallery wall idea inside the clinic that local Vaughan residents can use to display their body of work and get more exposure. I want to support the local Vaughan art community by providing a free space to exhibit their work as there are limited spaces for this currently in Vaughan.”

~ Dr. Laura Tari, founder,  
Movement Chiropractic & Rehab



Movement Chiropractic & Rehab clinic on Major Mackenzie Drive near Weston Road



# **Engaging Our Business Community**





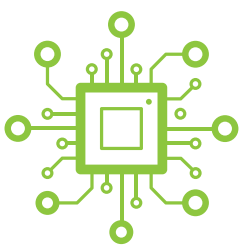
*Small Business Week launch event at Vaughan City Hall.*

Economic and Cultural Development completed an inaugural Business Satisfaction and Needs Survey to actively engage the business community and increase awareness of our services. A total of three focus groups were held and a survey of 212 businesses was conducted.

In 2018, we heard:

**94%** of large businesses  
(100 OR MORE EMPLOYEES)  
and **91%** of  
**ALL businesses** are  
**SATISFIED**  
with the delivery of  
services.<sup>1</sup>

**95%**  
of respondents  
indicated the overall  
**QUALITY  
OF LIFE**  
in the City of Vaughan  
**IS VERY GOOD OR GOOD.**<sup>1</sup>

  
**67%** of  
respondents estimated  
they will be making  
**INVESTMENTS**  
for new or innovative  
technology over the  
next five years.<sup>1</sup>



An aerial photograph of an industrial and commercial real estate complex. The central feature is a large, multi-story industrial building with a grey roof and a red stripe along its side. To the left of the building is a large parking lot filled with cars. To the right is another large parking lot with many white vehicles. In the foreground, there is a small pond surrounded by trees and a paved area. A multi-lane road runs along the bottom of the image. The background shows a mix of green fields and trees. A diagonal green and yellow overlay is present on the left side of the image.

# **Industrial and Commercial Real Estate**





Adidas Group Head Office located in Vaughan Enterprise Zone

## VEZ Anticipates Rapid Expansion

The Vaughan Enterprise Zone (VEZ) saw an unprecedented level of building activity in 2018. Site plans for approximately 6.2 million square feet of new industrial spaces were submitted in response to the industrial availability rate sitting under one per cent for the first time ever. The VEZ is located in the western quadrant of the city bordering Brampton, Toronto and Caledon. The industrial market is driven by manufacturing, transportation, warehousing, distribution and e-commerce logistics.

### 2018 MAJOR INDUSTRIAL TRANSACTIONS

| COMPANY                   | BUSINESS ACTIVITY                              |
|---------------------------|--|
| Atlas Tire Wholesale Inc. | Distributor of tires and wheels                |
| DHL Express               | Logistics and supply chain                     |
| Debco                     | Promotional products supplier                  |
| Diversified Ulbrich       | Supplier of stainless steel and special metals |
| Flextile Ltd.             | Manufacturing                                  |
| Humberline Packaging Inc. | Manufacturing                                  |
| Kingsdown Mattresses      | Manufacturing                                  |
| Sobeys Inc.               | Distribution grocer                            |
| State Window Corp.        | Manufacturing                                  |
| XPO Logistics, Inc.       | Logistics and supply chain                     |



# \$277 million

value of **industrial** building permits issued in 2018<sup>1</sup>

## IN THE NEWS

*Pliteq Inc. received \$3.8 million in FedDev funding from the Federal government to acquire advanced production equipment and adopt new manufacturing activities that boost productivity, creating 62 skilled jobs.*

1. City of Vaughan, Building Standards department, 2018



Improve Canada, a permanent home show for approximately 400 home improvement businesses located on Keele Street near Highways 400 and 407.

#### TOP 15 CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES BY VALUE OF NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS<sup>1</sup>

|              |                    |               |
|--------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. Toronto   | 6. Mississauga     | 11. Hamilton  |
| 2. Montreal  | 7. Ottawa          | 12. Gatineau  |
| 3. Vancouver | 8. Winnipeg        | 13. Surrey    |
| 4. Calgary   | 9. Quebec          | 14. Saskatoon |
| 5. Edmonton  | <b>10. VAUGHAN</b> | 15. Laval     |

## IN THE NEWS

Northern Transformer Corporation received \$2 million from the Province of Ontario through the Jobs and Prosperity Fund to support the development and manufacturing of next-generation power delivery. The project will help create 60 jobs and retain 82 jobs.

## IN THE NEWS

Vision Extrusion Group receives \$1.5 million from the Ontario government through the Jobs and Prosperity Fund to invest in new technologies and machinery, creating 76 new jobs and retaining more than 500 positions.

Dishon Limited received \$1.3 million from the Ontario government through the Jobs and Prosperity Fund to invest in new technology and almost double its workforce, creating 54 new jobs and retaining 60 positions.

#### 2018 MAJOR OFFICE TRANSACTIONS

| COMPANY                  | BUSINESS ACTIVITY                              |
|--------------------------|--|
| Forest Group             | Asphalt and building restoration (Head Office) |
| KIK Custom Products Inc. | Manufacturing                                  |
| Marc Anthony Cosmetics   | Manufacturing                                  |
| Telecon                  | Telecom network infrastructure                 |



## Emerging Commercial Marketplace

The VMC, Vaughan's downtown, offers unprecedented access to talent, Class A office space, multi-modal transit and urban amenities. The VMC is the largest and most ambitious project in the City's history and continues to rise from its strategic location at the intersection of highways 400, 407 and 7.

In 2018, the VMC saw:

- the PwC-YMCA Tower topped-off and enclosed.
- the Transit City condo project break ground on three residential towers of 55 storeys, making them York Region's tallest towers. The development will include ground-level retail and a Buca-branded restaurant and Bar Buca.
- the VMC's first office building, the KPMG Tower, fully leased in 2018.
- several new residential developments were proposed, totalling more than 5,400 units and 400 townhomes.
- the City-owned Edgeley Pond and Park progress. The design is being finalized and the City plans to start construction in 2019.

Other commercial highlights include:

- Vaughan Mills welcomed Canada's first location of Nordstrom Rack, Ontario's third UNIQLO, and announced the opening of CREALIVE entertainment Centre in 2019.



# \$143 million

value of **commercial** building permits issued in 2018<sup>1</sup>



KPMG Tower and Vaughan Metropolitan TTC Station viewed from Millway Avenue.

1. City of Vaughan, Building Standards department, 2018



# **Vibrant Arts and Culture**





*Joseph Muscat, Sensory Overload, Acrylic on canvas, 2014 | Featured in the Urban Jungle exhibition*

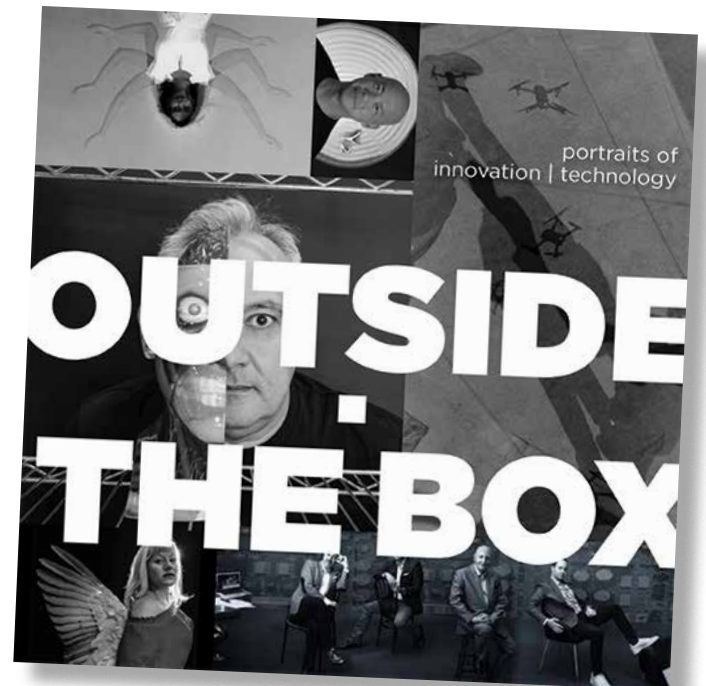
Arts and culture are an integral part in creating a livable city to attract top talent and in making Vaughan a world-class destination.

In 2018, the City of Vaughan delivered cultural activities and programming throughout the year, with nearly 10,000 participants. These events focus on building cultural capacity and making connections and experiences with people.

Economic and Cultural Development curated two public art installations in the “On the Slate” gallery at Vaughan City Hall. Both installations featured art, technology and business and were seen more than 140,000 times:

- smARTcities: exploring the digital frontier (March 15–July 6, 2018)
- OUTSIDE THE BOX: portraits of innovation | technology (October 16, 2018–April 12, 2019)  
launched in conjunction with Small Business Week

Public art was on display as the Kleinburg Village Business Improvement Area hosted 15 street art locations and a centrally located carving for the commercial core and main street of Kleinburg Village.



*Outside the Box: portraits of innovation | technology exhibition brochure*



Participants in the 2018 Creative Industries Tour stop in Kleinburg Village

## Creative Industries Tour | May 15, 2018

- Inaugural tour focused on Vaughan's digital media and film industries
- Partnered with the Vaughan International Film Festival, Sony Pictures and Avid Digital Studios from California
- More than 50 people involved in the tour
- Led to first Creative Industries Summit at the Vaughan Business Expo in 2019



McDonald House, i.am Intergenerational Arts Festival

## Culture Days | September 27-29

- Three-day celebration of diversity and culture in its 10th year
- One of five municipalities recognized in Ontario by the National Culture Days Organization for City Hub and Social Media models
- Involved more than 20 organizations at 30 activities across the City
- More than 7,000 participants and online engagement of almost 50,000 people







Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua at the smARTcities SALON event as part of the smARTcities: exploring the digital frontier art exhibition.

There were six art acquisitions for the corporate collection of the City, all from the 'smARTcities: exploring the digital frontier' exhibit, bringing the collection to a total of 77 art pieces.



InSpirit Festival | Dandiya Taas Dance, Vellore Village Community Centre

## InSpirit Festival | May 2018

- Fifteen activations throughout May to celebrate Asian and South Asian Heritage Month
- First year running this unique festival in Vaughan
- More than 1,000 participants



InSpirit Festival | Doga Yoga, McDonald House





# **Growing Tourism and Accommodation Industry**





*Canada's Wonderland view from Jane Street*

Tourism is a thriving part of Vaughan's economy. In 2018, the accommodation and food services industry accounted for \$295 million of Vaughan's real gross domestic product. In 2018, the City of Vaughan completed extensive consultations on the creations of a new tourism promotion corporation focused on promoting overnight stays in Vaughan. The new tourism corporation is set to start operations in 2019.

Vaughan's major tourism operators include Canada's Wonderland, Vaughan Mills, the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, the Kortright Centre for Conservation, LEGOLAND Discovery Centre, Reptilia and the mainstreets and village cores of Kleinburg, Thornhill and Woodbridge.

Vaughan currently has 12 hotels and four motels with a total of 1,845 rooms, according to a recent report from Commercial Real Estate Services Canada (CBRE). The report also estimates a potential supply of an additional 1,200 rooms in the coming years. For a complete inventory of hotels available in Vaughan, visit [vaughan.ca/business](http://vaughan.ca/business).

## 2018 Tourism Announcements

- **CREACTIVE** — the first Cirque du Soleil family entertainment centre in Canada set to open at Vaughan Mills in 2019.
- **Yukon Striker** — the longest, fastest and tallest dive roller coaster in the world at Canada's Wonderland set to open in 2019.
- **Winterfest** — a new attraction at Canada's Wonderland that will feature outdoor skating and activities for the entire community to enjoy.



*Artistic rendering of future CReACTIVE centre at Vaughan Mills*



# **City Investments to Create a Competitive Economy**





*Artistic rendering of PwC-YMCA Tower and Public Spaces*

## North Maple Regional Park – Phase One

The 900-acre park opened in 2018, and will be larger than New York City’s Central Park when fully completed. It will provide future opportunities to increase tourism through sporting, music and other events and festivals.

## Kleinburg Village Improvements

To accommodate the parking demand of shoppers and visitors in Kleinburg Village, the City and KBIA removed or relocated 12 parking markers to create 10 additional on-street parking spots.

## Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital

Construction of the Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital topped off in October 2018. The 1.2-million-square-foot facility is the future home of the first hospital in Canada to feature fully integrated “smart” technology systems and is expected to be completed in 2020. The hospital will employ more than 1,800 full-time staff with up to 550 hospital beds.

## Highway 427 Expansion Project

Groundbreaking on the extension of Highway 427 took place in May 2018. This project involves a 6.6-kilometre extension from Highway 7 to Major Mackenzie Drive, and will improve the flow of traffic and movement of goods and services in the Vaughan Enterprise Zone.

## PwC-YMCA Tower Public Spaces

Construction continued on the new PwC-YMCA Tower, which was topped off and enclosed in 2018 in the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre. The building will be home to a 77,000-square-foot YMCA with not-for-profit child care services, fitness and aquatic facilities, plus a 32,000-square-foot City of Vaughan public library and recreation space.

A high-angle, wide shot of a busy trade show or conference floor. The room is filled with numerous booths of varying sizes, each featuring displays, signage, and people. In the foreground, a booth has a computer monitor and a person standing nearby. To the right, a booth has a sign that reads "Constant Contact". In the background, more booths and people are visible, creating a sense of a large, active event. The lighting is bright, and the overall atmosphere is one of professional networking and business development.

# **Creating Business Opportunities and Fostering Municipal Investment**





*Innovation panel of OUTSIDE THE BOX subjects at Vaughan Small Business Week, 2018.*

## Vaughan Business Expo

The Vaughan Business Expo continues to grow from 2018 to 2019, with a focus on business growth through strategic partner development.

In 2018, there were almost 100 booths with more than 350 registered attendees. This event grew in 2019 to include nearly 100 booths with more than 520 registered attendees and Vaughan's first Creative Industries summit, which featured dialogue with leaders in the creative industries, arts and culture.

## Small Business Week 2018

Small Business Week in 2018 celebrated Vaughan's innovation economy with the launch of the OUTSIDE THE BOX: Portraits of Innovation, on display at Vaughan City Hall's On the Slate atrium gallery, featuring some of the companies and organizations working in innovation in our region.

## Partnerships and Sponsorships

In 2018, the Municipal Partnership Office continued to partner with various corporations that gave back to the community while building their businesses. Corporate sponsors were able to carry out their objectives, raise their profile and create B2B or B2C connections within their areas of interest.

The City also benefited from grants of more than \$20 million in 2017 and 2018 that helped offset costs for approximately 40 projects contributing to infrastructure development, community events and program enhancements.



*Official opening of Saputo Tennis Courts at Torii Park.*

A photograph of a construction site at dusk. In the foreground, a multi-story building's steel framework is visible, with several bright starburst light effects overlaid. Behind it, two large tower cranes stand against a dark blue sky. Numerous birds are captured in flight across the scene. A large green diagonal graphic element covers the top-left portion of the image. The overall mood is one of active development and progress.

# Where We Are Headed in 2019

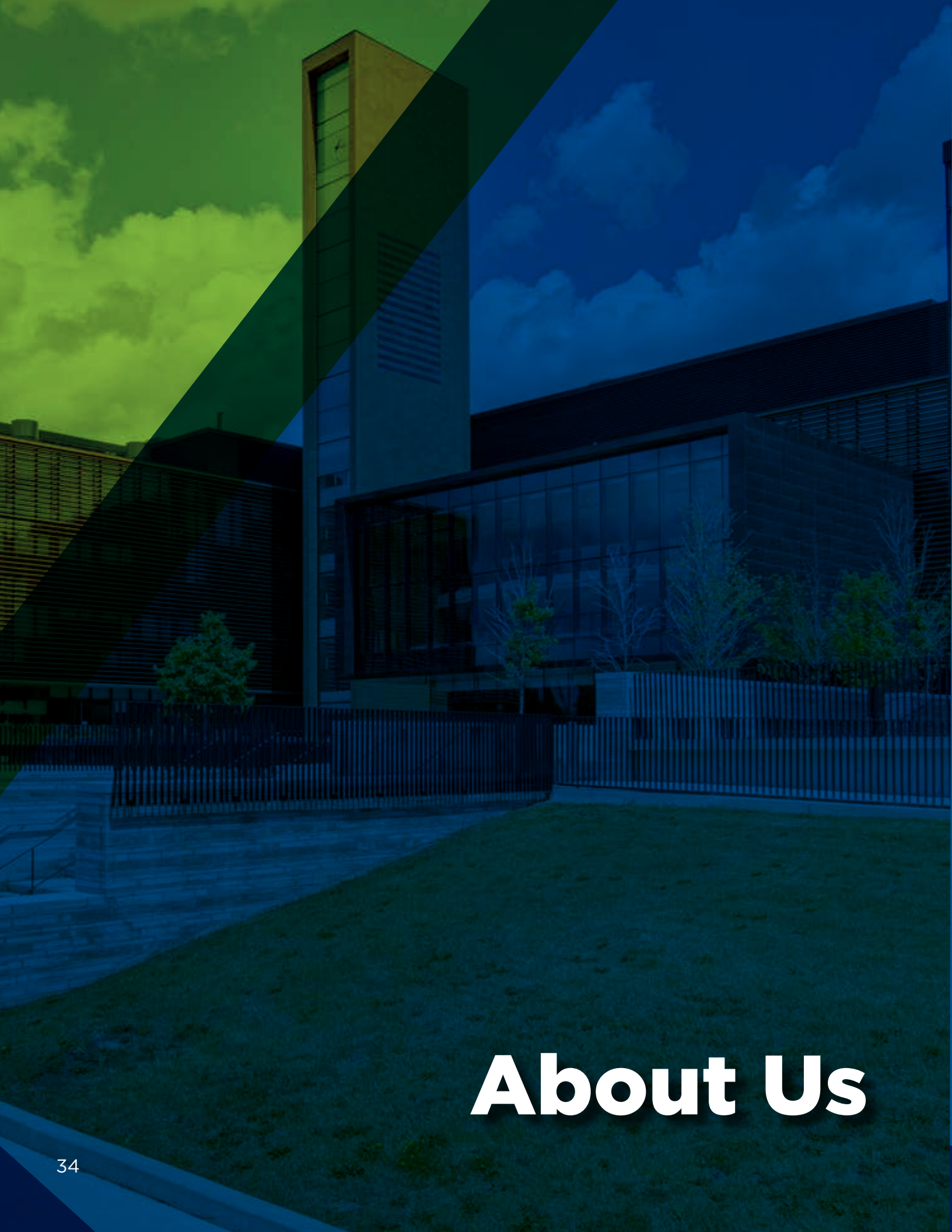




*Aerial view of construction at the site of the future PwC-YMCA Tower at VMC.*

The department of Economic and Cultural Development is dedicated to advancing economic opportunities, creating a climate for businesses to create jobs and increasing investments in economic development through key projects and initiatives:

- Economic Development Opportunities Feasibility Study for the Healthcare Precinct  
*Partnering with Mackenzie Health, ventureLAB and York University*
- Feasibility Study for a Performing and Cultural Arts Centre in the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre
- Creation of a Cultural and Economic Partnerships Policy
- Creation of a Destination Marketing Organization to increase economic activity in tourism and accommodation industries in Vaughan
- Increasing tech entrepreneurial programs and service in Vaughan  
*In partnership with ventureLAB and the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT)*
- Corporate innovation in partnership with Multiplicity Labs
- Launch of Vaughan Business Café; connecting entrepreneurs in the business community (vaughan.ca/**BusinessCafe**)
- Launch of Cultural Heritage Program
- Creative Industries Tour 2019 taking place during the Vaughan International Film Festival in May
- on the SLATE: facingNORTH: art, symbol and story
- Public Art Awareness Campaign Strategy
- Community Cultural Roundtables spring and fall 2019
- Small Business Week 2019  
*In partnership with the Vaughan Chamber of Commerce*
- Creation of International Business Development Action Plan  
*Engaging key stakeholders such as: MEDJCT, Toronto Global, York Region Economic Development, Vaughan Chamber of Commerce, Regional Boards of Trade and internationally focused Chambers of Commerce and Business Associations*
- VMC business development and marketing
- VEZ business development and marketing
- Implementation of revenue-generating initiatives off the tax-base that will benefit City programs and services such as billboard advertising and naming rights by the Municipal Partnerships Office
- Start up a Smart City business program



# About Us





Vaughan City Hall

The department of Economic and Cultural Development strives to make Vaughan an inspired community through entrepreneurship, business and cultural development and strategic partnerships.

Our mandate is to:

- facilitate entrepreneurship, employment and investment opportunities.
- develop and promote creative art and cultural experiences that convey Vaughan's identity and economic vitality.
- engage thought-leaders to generate insightful ideas, strategies and actions that drive economic, cultural and partnership investments.
- deliver a valuable and relevant customer experience.

Economic and Cultural Development offers a variety of services to the businesses and residents of Vaughan. Some services include:

**Business Development:** Assistance to businesses who are looking to achieve their growth and expansion goals. This area focuses on employment and investment outcomes to help businesses be a part of the Vaughan and York Region economy.

### Small Business and Entrepreneurship

**Guidance:** Help budding entrepreneurs, small- and medium-sized enterprises and inventors start up, grow and thrive in a global marketplace.

### Creative and Cultural Development:

Fostering art and cultural experiences that are fun, memorable and enriching while helping to grow the creative economy, the community and the cultural spaces in Vaughan. Creative and cultural development aims to further promote Vaughan's identity as a highly desirable place to live and invest.

**Partnerships and Sponsorship:** Dedicated to enhancing City programs, services and infrastructure through the generation of strategic non-tax-based revenues. This is achieved by leveraging City assets for sponsorship, advertising opportunities and grant funding.

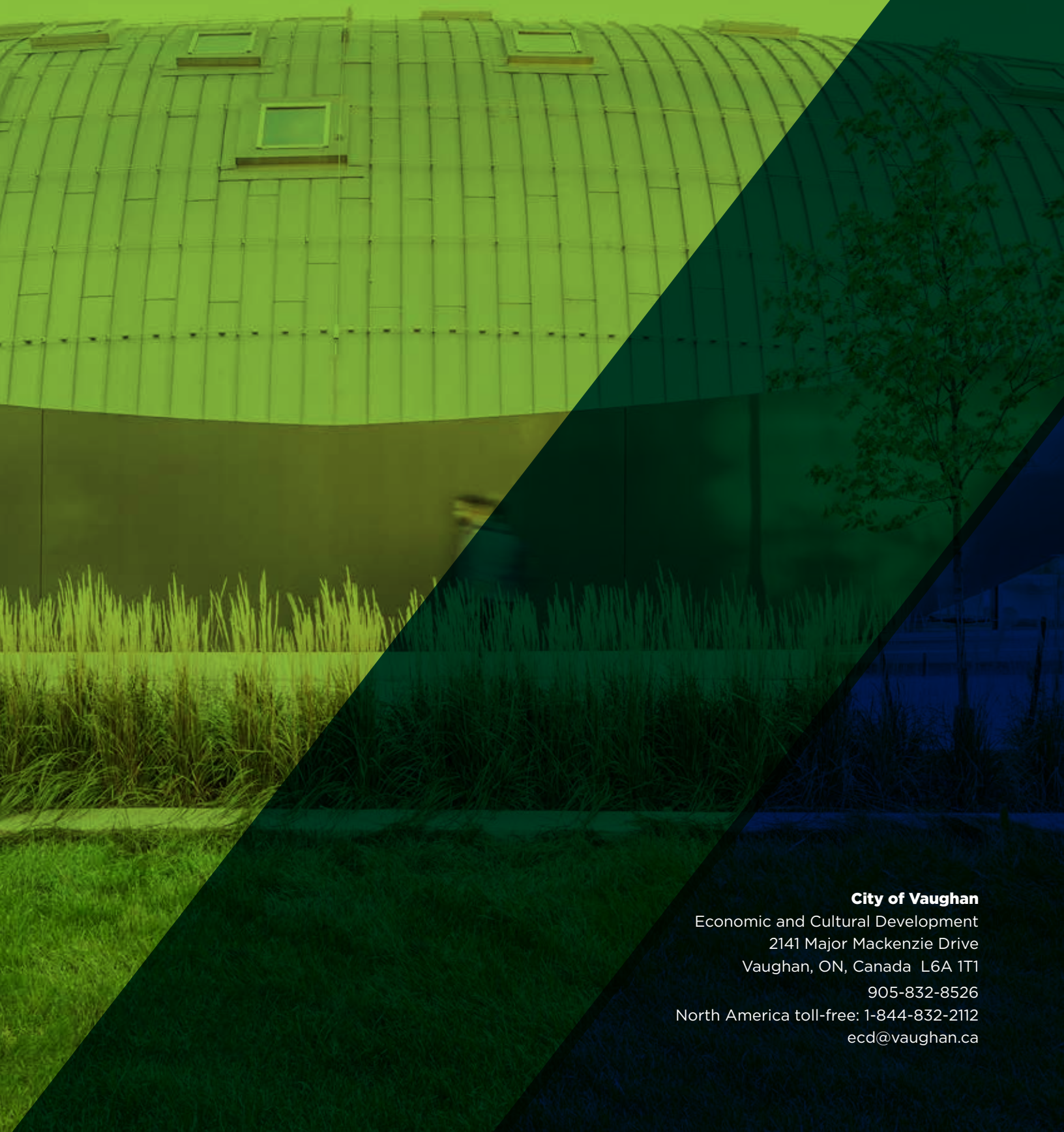
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