

## St. Catharines Starts To Cut Red Tape For Business

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(St. Catharines) Last Friday, the St. Catharines Economic Development and Tourism Services launched an online business service that will make it more efficient for businesses to operate in the city.

In partnership with Industry Canada, and the Ontario Ministry of Small Business and Entrepreneurship, the city implemented a program called BizPaL. BizPaL is an innovative project that provides entrepreneurs with simplified access to the information on permits and licenses they need to establish and run their businesses. This unique partnership among federal, provincial, and local governments is designed to cut through the paperwork burden and red tape that small business owners encounter.

“The Chamber has been an active advocate of reducing the red tape burden on business as a means to facilitate growth and investment for the business community,” said Stephen Cook, President of the Board of Directors of the St. Catharines – Thorold Chamber. “We believe regulation management is an important pillar for economic growth in Niagara, and BizPaL is a step in the right direction.”

Although St. Catharines is currently the only city in the region utilizing BizPaL, the Region is taking steps to implement the online program, which will strengthen the business competitiveness of Niagara.

“Niagara can’t afford to have other regions and cities offering accessible online business services and not Niagara,” explains Walter Sendzik Executive Vice President and General Manager of the St. Catharines – Thorold Chamber of Commerce. “There were 90 other cities and municipalities across Canada that had BizPaL up and running well before St. Catharines. We need to be more proactive as a community to ensure that we are seen as leaders in business development – not followers.”

Area business owners and entrepreneurs can access the service by visiting [www.stcatharines.ca](http://www.stcatharines.ca) or [www.serviceontario.ca/bizpal](http://www.serviceontario.ca/bizpal).

**The St. Catharines – Thorold Chamber of Commerce is the largest chamber in Niagara with more than 1050 members representing over 27,000 employees. Founded in 1867, it’s the voice of business for a stronger Niagara.**

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