



For Immediate Release

OCOBIA Receives ACFO Bilingual Ottawa Micro-grant

Ottawa, July 20, 2021 - Ottawa Coalition of Business Improvement Areas (OCOBIA) representing the 19 BIAs in Greater Ottawa, has received a micro-grant from Association Communautés Francophone D'Ottawa / Association of francophone communities of Ottawa (ACFO). The grant program supports projects that enhance the bilingual character of Ottawa and advances the interests of the francophone community through projects.

The Project: OCOBIA: une communauté bilingue | a bilingual community

The objective of this project is to create a bilingual business community in Ottawa; building a french content experience online and creating a bilingual skill set in BIA Leadership.

This project aligns with the Bilingual Ottawa micro-grants Community Economic Development field with the creation of training programs, resources, or tools for multiple businesses to increase the active offer of bilingual services; and delivering awareness campaigns on the economic impact of French for Ottawa businesses.

"Business Improvement Areas in Ottawa are looking to adopt French communications and convey a french-friendly community to the general public. We want to welcome the francophone community and french visitors to eat, shop, and enjoy their experience in our business areas," - Michelle Groulx, Executive Director of OCOBIA.

Through this project, OCOBIA will be supporting BIAs and their business members who wish to learn and deliver customer services in french. This will increase bilingualism in Ottawa as a whole. As key economic development partners, OCOBIA will collaborate with the city of Ottawa and [RGA \(Regroupement des gens d'affaires\)](#) to support and promote the project.

For more information about the Bilingual Ottawa grant program and ACFO, please visit: <https://acfoottawa.ca/en/>

For more information about OCOBIA, please visit: <https://ocobia.org/about-ocobia/>

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