ELGIN/ST. THOMAS SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE CENTRE

# 2019 UPDATE

DECEMBER 12

# Discussion Outline

## Topics to be Covered

About the SBEC

Power in Numbers

Focus Elgin County

Bridges to Better Business

Success Stories

Vision for 2020 & Beyond

Your SBEC Team

# THE ELGIN/ST. THOMAS SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE CENTRE (SBEC)

1 of 54 SBECs in the Province

A partnership of the Province of Ontario, the County of Elgin and the City of St. Thomas

"Creating an ecosystem where small businesses in Elgin County and St. Thomas can connect, learn and grow their business."

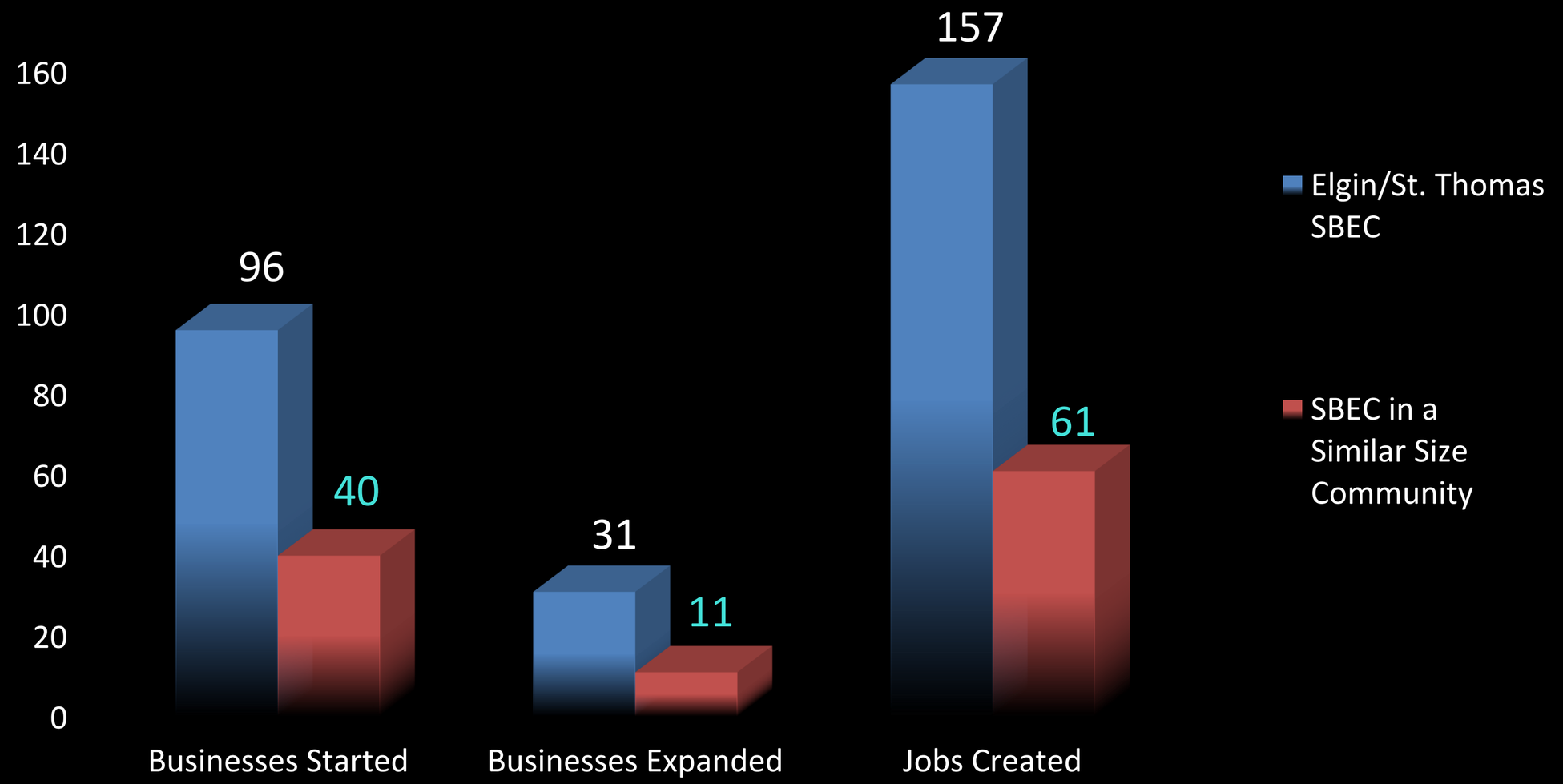
# YOUR SBEC TEAM

**TARA McCAULLEY**
SBEC Manager

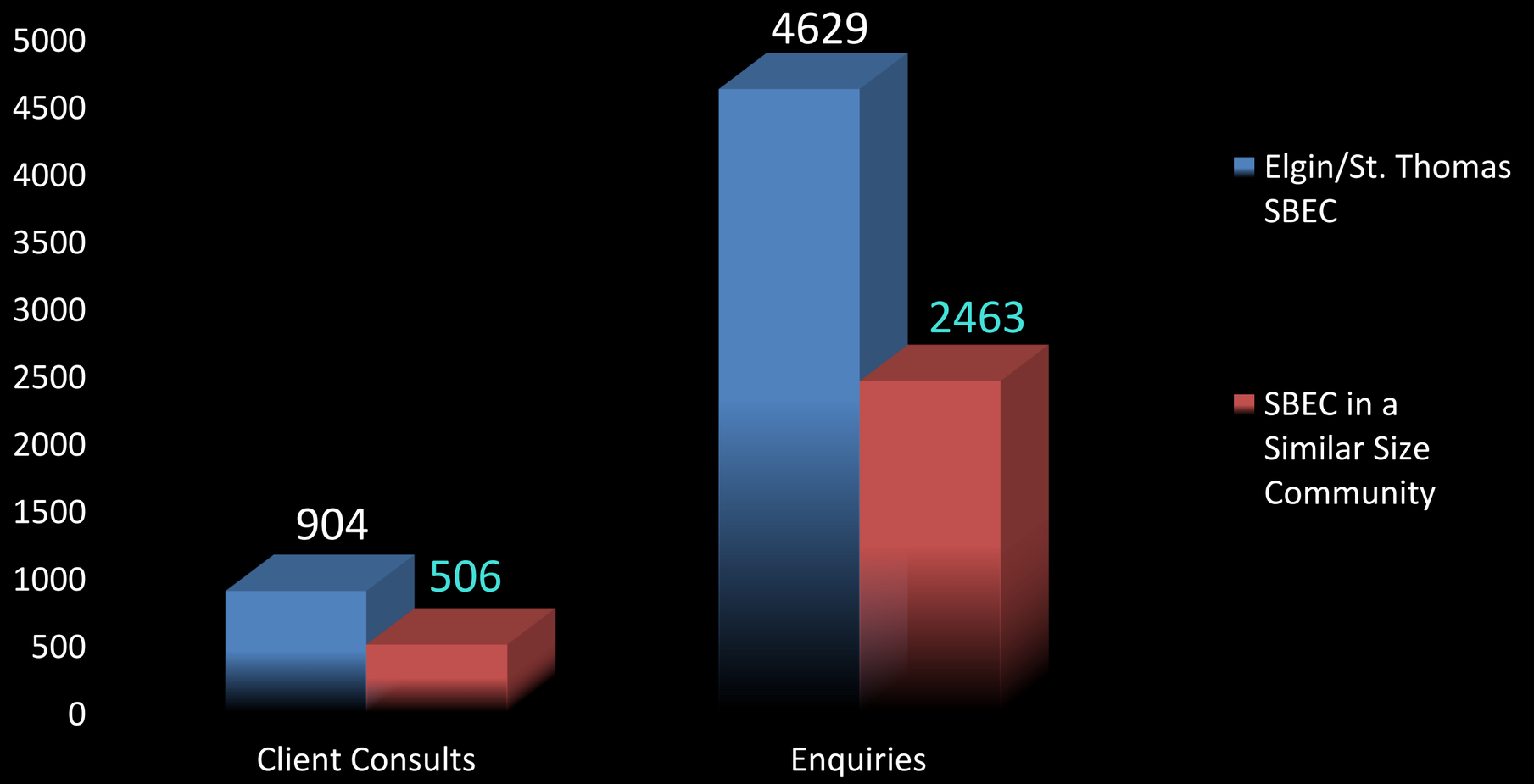
**MIKE KERKVLIET (from West Elgin)**
Business Advisor

**SARAH NOBLE (from East Elgin)**
Business Advisor

# THE ELGIN/ST. THOMAS SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE CENTRE (SBEC)



# THE ELGIN/ST. THOMAS SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE CENTRE (SBEC)



# POWER IN NUMBERS...

## In the first half of 2019...

- **72** businesses started or expanded
- **77** new jobs
- **2,671** inquiries
- **576** client consultations

- Opened Grow Pop Up Shop
- Ready Set Grow Competition
- A Walk in Her Shoes Women's Event
- Travel Tuesdays
- Certified in Mental Health First Aid

## In the last 5 years...

**$675,688**
Value of Grants Distributed

**403**
Businesses Started or Expanded

**463**
New Jobs

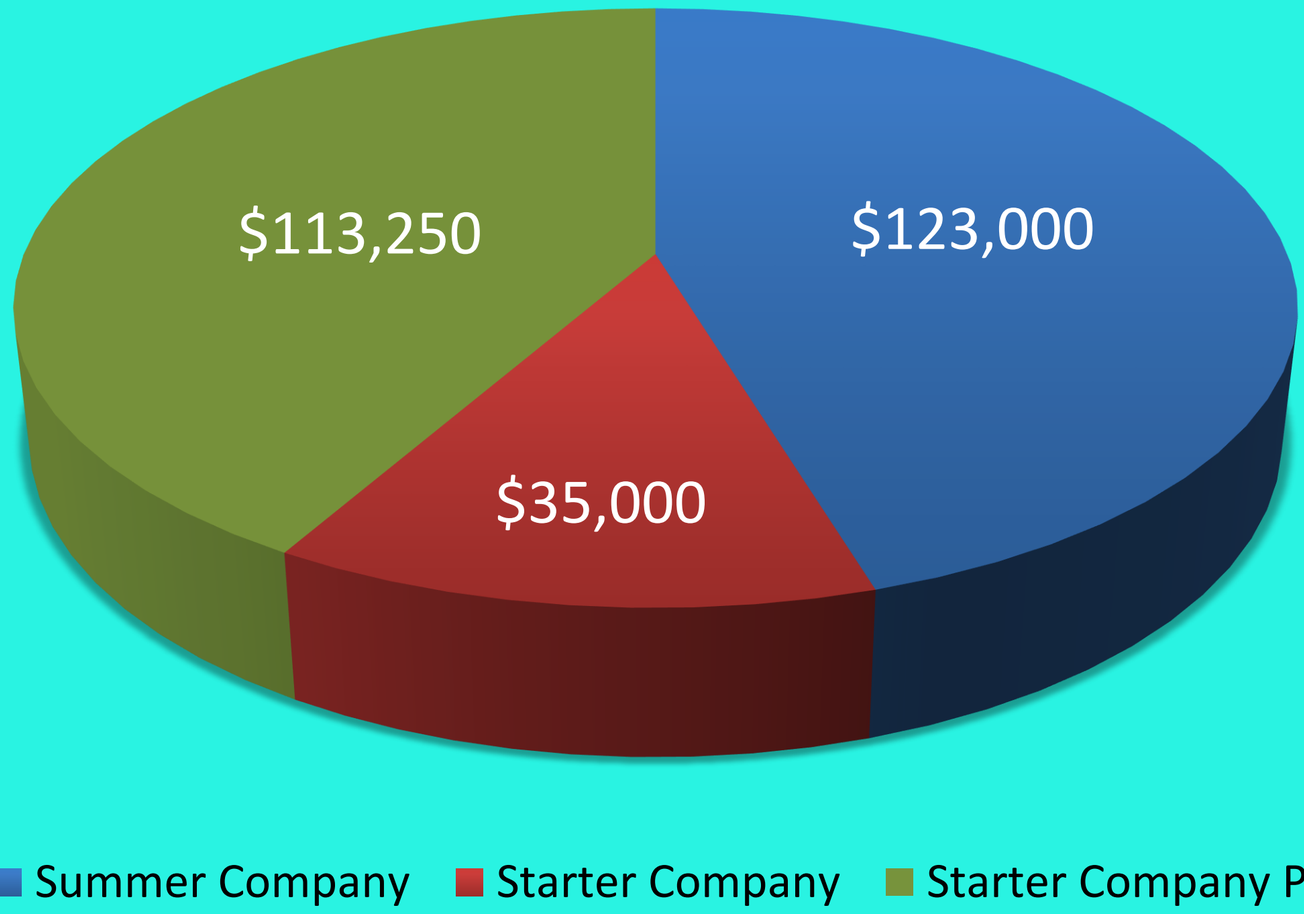
**15,618**
Inquiries

**174**
Workshops/Events Hosted

**Over the last 5 years, Elgin County has supported the SBEC with funding totaling $175,000**

# FOCUS ELGIN COUNTY

## Total Grants to Elgin Businesses: $271,250



BRIDGES
TO BETTER BUSINESS

The 10th annual 2019 Bridges to Better Business:

- Featured over 40 businesses from Elgin County & St. Thomas
- Small Business awards
- Relevant and impactful keynotes

Nearly 400 people came together at the Elgin County Railway Museum to celebrate small business in our community.

# Some Success Stories

# The Future

- Increased presence in the East & West
- Additional workshops added to the roster
- Focus on agritourism
- Increased emphasis on helping businesses with online presence

# Challenges

- Provincial funding decreased by 16% while # of clients increases every year
- Will need additional funding to continue to provide the high level of service

# SBEC BUDGET & ASK

**SBEC Budget 2020:**

*Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation & Trade*
$255,525 (confirmed)

*St. Thomas EDC*
$70,000 (confirmed)

*Elgin County*
$55,000 (proposed)

*(+ $35,000 from other sources)*