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'Overall negative impact'

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Prospective investors are afraid to put money into the city because of ongoing native protests, Brantford's economic development officer says in court documents filed as part of the municipality's application for an injunction.

"In general, the recent aboriginal blockades/work stoppages have had an overall negative impact on economic activity in the city resulting in a reduction of investment inquiries and the postponement and/or cancellation of projects."

Frabotta said that financial institutions are becoming reluctant to finance local projects.

And he noted realtors have told the economic development office that the city now is "perceived to be an undesirable community within which to invest."

Here are some of the concerns identified by Frabotta:

- A major Canadian company was looking for a location for a "substantial facility" but rejected Brantford because of the aboriginal protests.
- Dancor Development's proposed multi-tenant industrial building in the northwest industrial business park may not proceed.
- Abrigo Canada's plans to build an industrial facility is on hold and "may never resume."
- Kingspan Insulated Panels, which proposed build a manufacturing plant and North American corporate headquarters in the north end, warned the city that the delays may cause them to move its project. - Bawa Hotels' Hampton Inn in the Northwest Industrial Business Park is several months behind schedule.
- Cambridge Heritage Management's large residential project on Erie Avenue is delayed.
- First Gulf's retail project on Wayne Gretzky Parkway and Henry Street has been delayed for more than a year.
- A multi-tenant commercial building planned by Dean Braund is already six months behind. Braund, president of Ardency Corp., proposed to anchor the building with a Williams coffee shop.

"If the damage done now isn't already irreparable," the city's acting mayor, James Calnan, said in an interview Thursday, "it's going to at least take years to get back to the point we were at before all this."

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