

Opening Remarks
For the
Honourable Jim Bradley

Minister of Tourism

Communities in Transition:
Niagara Community Revitalization
Announcement

Friday, June 22nd 2007
2:00 p.m.

The Regional Municipality of Niagara
2201 St. David's Road
P.O. Box 1042
Thorold, Ontario,
Canada L2V 4T7

Check Against Delivery

- Good morning, everyone.
- It's great to see so many friendly faces in the crowd.
- I'd like to welcome [mention notables.]
- I'm very pleased that you could make it today.
- Thanks for your support.
- The region has worked very hard to bring new investments to Niagara –
- Investments that make our communities even more innovative and more competitive.
- In large part, the region's continued partnership with the provincial government has been a catalyst for positive change.
- Our partnership has opened doors to innovation.
- It's rooted new economic developments.
- And together, we're creating a solid foundation that helps Niagara grow and meet the needs of the global marketplace.
- It's our goal to ensure that Niagara remains one of Ontario's "competitive advantages" for years to come.
- Right now, we're focusing on our strengths.
- Our quality of life is second to none.

- Our schools of higher education are world-renowned.
- We are close to the U.S. border.
- We have a skilled workforce, strong agriculture sector, and top-notch business services.
- We're working hard to use these assets and to transform Niagara into a leading edge economy.
- Our *Niagara Week* in April, and *Navigating our Future: Niagara's Economic Growth Strategy*, set the wheels in motion –
- And today, I'm very pleased that Minister Pupatello will announce the Ontario government's commitment to helping Niagara meet its challenges head on, to grow and succeed.
- It's my pleasure to welcome to the stage my honourable colleague, Minister Sandra Pupatello.
- Sandra...

Word Count = 260

Remarks for

The Honourable Sandra Pupatello

Minister of Economic Development and Trade

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INTRODUCTION

- Thank you, Jim.

- It's great to be here today.

- I'd like to thank everyone who has come to show support:
 - Regional Chair Peter Partington and representatives from the region and municipalities;

 - [Mention Mayors in attendance]

 - Dennis Parass, Chairman of Niagara Economic Development Corporation, and its CEO Patrick Gedge;

 - And to everyone who made this announcement possible.

- Niagara is one of Ontario's crown jewels.
- Its quality of place, diverse business community and vibrant culture drive tourism and economic activity that benefits our entire province.
- But it's also clear this region faces challenges.
- Global restructuring is impacting business and manufacturing across the continent –
- And Niagara has felt the effects.

BUILDING ON OUR STRENGTHS

- To meet the challenges of the global economy, we're building on Ontario's strengths.

- We're working with municipalities across the province to help our communities and businesses build on **their** strengths.
- We're embracing innovation –
- And we're making strategic investments in key sectors to boost Ontario's competitive advantage.
- For example, our historic \$650 million Next Generation Job Fund will help create jobs and reduce green house gases by investing in the development of clean cars, clean fuels, and clean technologies and products here in Ontario.
- Our auto strategy has leveraged more than \$7 billion in new investments and anchored thousands of high-value jobs.

- The strategy has delivered significant investments to nearby facilities at Valiant, Nematik, Chrysler and Navistar.
- We've helped Ontario manufacturers generate new business in Alberta's booming oil sands.
- I'm very pleased that a number of Niagara manufacturers joined us on our Alberta mission.
- Hamill Machine Company Inc. of Niagara Falls was successful in signing a contract to supply a leading company out west.
- Congratulations!

SUPPORT FOR NIAGARA

- There is huge potential right here in Niagara that can put Ontario front and centre on our own soil and in the global arena.

- I'm proud to say that our government is committed to working with the region to maximize what it can bring to the rest of the world.
- Today, I'm pleased to announce the Ontario government is providing \$500,000 to match the equal investment of the Region of Niagara, municipalities, the Niagara Economic Development Corporation and contributions from Brock University.
- Our combined \$1 million investment will foster a strong, innovative economy here in Niagara.
- Our focus will be on four areas that will encourage innovative growth and long-term competitiveness for Niagara.

- These areas include:
 - Innovative economic and cultural revitalization investments;
 - Support for the local manufacturing sector;
 - Development of the gateway economic zone and gateway economic centre; and
 - The creation and implementation of regional marketing strategies.

- Our investment enhances St. Catharines downtown core and encourages innovative growth of the city's economic, cultural and academic pillars.

- It brings together manufacturing representatives as part of a regional network, so sector professionals can discuss opportunities for their industries.

- We're working with our regional partners to leverage Niagara's key location to the U.S. and promote more cross-border trade, movements of goods, and tourism.
- It's part of our long-term provincial plan to showcase Ontario's strengths to leading companies and jurisdictions around the world.
- As part of our investment, we're developing a regional branding and marketing strategy, so investors and people around the world can see the world-class advantages that Niagara offers.
- I'm so pleased that our government, the region and municipalities are working together to create a positive change in Niagara.

CONCLUSION

- Our investment helps build a solid foundation that will support Niagara's economic sustainability, competitiveness, and prosperity for many years to come.
- I look forward to working closely with the region to position Niagara for success in the global economy.
- Thank you.

Word Count = 640

St. David's Hospital
231 St. David's Road
Toronto, Ontario

Remarks for

The Honourable Sandra Pupatello

Minister of Economic Development and Trade

Niagara Manufacturing Sector Roundtable

Friday, June 22nd 2007
3:00 p.m.

The Regional Municipality of Niagara
2201 St. David's Road
Thorold, Ontario

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- Thank you, (emcee.)

- I'm very pleased to speak with you today about Niagara's economy and manufacturing sector:
 - The strengths;
 - The challenges;
 - And how we can work together to drive Niagara's economy forward.

- As I touched on during my announcement, there are major opportunities for Niagara's growth in the global economy.

- We can use Ontario's wine industry as an example.

- It's reaching new markets abroad and winning more share at home.

- But, the global economy also presents major challenges that make an impact on regions throughout Ontario – Niagara is no different.

- The Canadian dollar is high.

- Competition for talent, resources and market presence is fierce.
- As a government, we know the challenges you face in the global economy–
- And we're committed to helping your companies meet these challenges.
- Our investment today helps the region build on its strengths to make Niagara more attractive for businesses and tourism.
- It's a great start –
- And it's our goal to help the manufacturing sector – the backbone of Niagara's economy – continue to support the region's prosperity for years to come.
- That's why my Ministry organized this roundtable.

- We want to hear:
 - Your concerns;
 - How you feel we can help maximize your potential;
 - And how we can work together to help your businesses innovate and compete on a global scale.

- We've already taken positive steps to help manufacturers in Ontario.

- Our historic \$650 million Next General Job Fund will help manufacturers create jobs and better the environment by eliminating green house gases.

- We lowered the threshold of our Advanced Manufacturing Investment Strategy, so more small and medium-sized manufacturers can participate.

- We're eliminating capital tax entirely by 2010 –

- 18 months ahead of schedule.

- But there's still work to be done.

- We want to listen to you with our utmost attention, upfront and centre.
- I look forward to answering your questions, and working with you to make Niagara an even stronger home for manufacturers and businesses to grow and prosper.
- Before we get started, I'd like to invite Minister Bradley to say a few words.
- Minister...

Word Count = 370

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- Thank you, Sandra.
- Manufacturing is the lifeblood of Niagara.
- But the industry has faced very real challenges in the new millennium.
- Since I became MPP for St. Catharines, my goal has been to bring new opportunities to the region and to be an active voice for Niagara.
- I'm glad the government recognized the importance of Niagara's growth strategy, *Navigating our Future*.
- In April, Niagara Week helped the region showcase to the province what we have to offer.
- The Ontario government responded to our efforts, and today's announcement is a direct result.

- I'm very pleased the government has embraced the importance of Niagara's contributions to Ontario's economic prosperity, diversity and presence on the world stage.
- I look forward to building on what we've accomplished, and tailoring a strategy for your sector.
- To do so, we must learn from all of you.
- We need to have a solid grasp of how global competition is affecting your operations –
- So we can develop a plan to make Ontario a partner in your success.
- I'm pleased we're taking another step in that direction today.
- I look forward to hearing from all of you.
- Thank you.