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**Remarks  
for the  
Honourable Harinder Takhar  
Minister of Small Business and  
Entrepreneurship  
2006 Trade Forum  
RBC Theatre, Mississauga  
Monday, August 21, 2006**

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Thank you Consul General

- good morning. (*slightly bow head in  
consul direction*)

And Good morning,

Vice Premier

Mayor McCallion

Honoured guests.

As Minister of  
Small Business and  
Entrepreneurship, I'm  
always ready to talk about  
the many opportunities  
available for small business  
in our province.

In the global economy, it's  
essential that small  
businesses develop  
international relationships if  
they hope to compete.

The Government of Ontario knows how important it is to build strong relationships with other countries.

In 2005, we organized a business mission to China to build key investment and trading partnerships.

In Beijing, Shanghai, Suzhou, Nanjing And Hong Kong, business delegates from Ontario were matched with over 600 Chinese business leaders.

More than 30 agreements were forged, and subsequent contracts have been signed.

That success has inspired  
us.

So we're here today to look  
for innovative ways to  
create new partnerships  
and improve existing  
relationships.

To discuss opportunities  
that encourage small  
business growth, and...

To ensure our businesses develop in a prosperous environment, with access to valuable resources and a skilled workforce.

As a former small business owner, I can tell you from first-hand experience that Ontario provides an environment that contributes to venture success.

After all, small business is the foundation of our economy.

Ninety-nine per cent of Ontario's business is small business.

Of that ninety-nine per cent, ninety-seven per cent of small businesses have fewer than one hundred employees.

It is one of my goals to reduce the amount of government paperwork for small business owners, making it easier to register their companies, and ease the burden for business start-ups.

We are working closely with our partners, including the Small Business Agency of Ontario, which oversees 53 Small Business Enterprise Centres and satellite offices across the province.

Small Business Enterprise  
Centres provide  
entrepreneurs with  
business consulting  
services and information on  
management, marketing,  
technology and financing.

Our thriving business sector is just one of many reasons that makes Ontario an ideal location for investment.

Our creative atmosphere,

Diverse population,

Universal health care system,

Strong education system,

Access to resources,

And natural beauty,

Contribute to the best  
quality of life on the planet.

Investing in Ontario is not  
only an investment for  
business,

It is an investment in a high standard of living for family and friends.

This government is committed to helping our businesses compete on a global scale for years to come.

I hope you will become part of our success.

If you are able to go sightseeing during your visit this week, I urge you to see the wonders that our province has to offer.

Enjoy dinner 553 metres above the city at the CN Tower's restaurant.

Stop in at Ontario Place  
and watch an interactive  
film on a larger-than-life  
IMAX (eye max) movie screen.

Or,

Visit our majestic Niagara  
Falls.

It's my hope that the never-ending power of the falls will represent the strength of our future relationships.

On behalf of the Government of Ontario and Ministry of Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I thank you for attending this trade forum today.

Enjoy your time in Ontario,  
and we hope to see you  
again soon.