

**Remarks
for the
Honourable Harinder Takhar**

**Minister of Small Business and
Entrepreneurship**

**Alberta Chambers Luncheon
Pradera Restaurant in the
Westin Hotel -10135-100 Street,
Edmonton**

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Introduction

- Good afternoon everyone.
- It's great to be here in Alberta to discuss small business.
- There is tremendous potential for partnerships between Alberta, Ontario and our small business communities.

Alberta's Economic Strengths

- As you know, in 2005, Alberta witnessed the highest economic growth in the country.
- The technology, manufacturing and service sectors are the driving force behind your prosperity.
- Like Ontario, small business plays a big part in contributing to the strength of the economy.
- The strong investment climate encourages entrepreneurs from all over the world to set up shop in Alberta.
- The steps you're taking to ensure future prosperity are just as impressive.
- The *Securing Tomorrow's Prosperity* program, *Alberta Bitumen Processing Integration Study* and *Building and Educating Tomorrows Workforce* will not only create high value jobs for more Albertans but will contribute to a better standard of living for all Canadians.
- You're doing many things to ensure economic success for years to come.
- That's our plan for Ontario.

Ontario's Economic Strengths

- Our successful automotive manufacturing strategies are the lock-pin of Ontario's economic success.

- We've created thousands of jobs and for the second consecutive year we're the leading automaker in North America.
- Many small businesses supply our auto industry.
- In fact, small business is the cornerstone of our economy.
- Innovation is one of the key aspects we're focusing on to help small businesses succeed in the global economy.
- Our many initiatives, such as the *Market Readiness* program, help entrepreneurs get their products from the basement to market faster.
- We're also cutting down on government paperwork, saving owners time and money.

Working together

- We have a lot to offer each other.
- Last decade, Alberta and Ontario along with British Columbia were rated Canada's leader for economic growth.
- Even though our economic strengths vary, we can learn from each other to ensure our prosperity long into the future.
- We can establish stronger relationships between our regions that will continue to strengthen the economic advantages we already enjoy –
- And create new opportunities for our skilled workers in every sector.

Word Count = 360