

**Remarks
for the
Honourable Harinder Takhar
Minister of Small Business and
Entrepreneurship**

**Eastern Ontario Automotive
Parts Manufacturing Summit**

Thursday, October 19, 2006

Check Against Delivery

Good morning everyone.

As Minister of Small
Business and
Entrepreneurship, I'm
pleased to support the auto
parts manufacturing sector
of Eastern Ontario at this
important summit today.

Opportunity is around every
corner in this region.

Since 1988, the Ontario East Economic Development Commission has worked hard promote Eastern Ontario as a premiere business location.

Over the years, it's turned opportunity into prosperity.

It's our goal to work with the Commission to attract more jobs and new investments to Eastern Ontario.

As you know, the auto sector is a key part of the McGuinty government's agenda to enhance Ontario's long-term economic prosperity.

We've worked hard to leverage over \$7 billion in new auto investments across the province.

It's my hope to build on these investments and create greater opportunities for the auto industry of Eastern Ontario for years to come.

Your companies are extremely important to the surrounding communities, employing over 6,300 highly skilled local workers.

You drive the local economy
forward and create a better
quality of life for everyone.
However, we understand
very well the challenges you
face in order to grow and
compete in an evolving
automotive industry.

The Government of Ontario
is working in partnership
with Ontario East to develop
a strategy that addresses
these obstacles.

As part of the Eastern
Ontario Automotive
Initiative –

I'm pleased to announce \$200,000 in funding to support the Commission's undertaking of a competitive analysis that will find ways to get more of your products to a greater number of U.S. auto assemblers faster.

We want to save you time and money, so you can invest your resources in more important areas.

That's why we've reached
an understanding with
Federal government to
develop a new tax collection
agreement.

It will reduce your
paperwork, allowing you
more time to forge new
partnerships and grow your
business.

It's our goal to make Ontario
a world leader in innovation.

There are hundreds of entrepreneurs nurturing exciting new ideas that have the potential to help our economy prosper.

But without money or business expertise, some of those ideas may never see the light of day.

That's why the Government of Ontario launched its \$46-million Market Readiness Program.

It provides business owners with the money they need to bring their ideas from the drawing board to the market.

To further innovation in Eastern Ontario, we've identified over 20 ICT companies that currently supply, or have the potential to supply, leading edge technology to the automotive sector.

It's my hope that you will develop partnerships with companies from both industries here today –

By working together we can attract more investments and high-valued jobs for the people of this region for years to come.

Thank you.

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