

Press Conference – Arauco Signing Ceremony

Melamine Facility 657 Baseline – 11:30 A.M.

[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]

Good morning and thank you very much for the invitation to speak.

I'd like to acknowledge and thank our Member of Parliament Terry Sheehan and the Honourable Minister David Oraziatti for joining us this morning.

On behalf of Sault Ste. Marie City Council, I'd like to thank all involved who have helped us arrive at today's milestone. First and foremost though, I'd like to congratulate Arauco and its employees for their role in making this facility a success. It has principally been your efforts that have brought us to this point.

Arauco has been a valued part of our community and an important employer for many years. It's our sincere hope that you will continue to find much prosperity here in the years ahead.

I also want to thank the partners and funders who came together to make the construction and expansion of this plant a reality. These of course are FedNor – Industry Canada, the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation, the City of Sault Ste. Marie and the Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation.

As other speakers have attested to, the success of this facility is an example of the positive results that can be attained through teamwork and collaboration.

There is no doubt that we've been enduring a very difficult economic period here in Sault Ste. Marie in recent times, as have many other parts of the country. And while things have been trying, it's important to recognize and celebrate successes when they do occur.

Today is such a day. Congratulations again to Arauco and to the team who have led us to today's celebration.

Thank you.