

EDCO Spring Symposium Welcome

Wednesday May 18, 12:00 P.M. – Delta Hotel

[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]

Good morning everyone, I'm very glad to have the chance to join you here today.

On behalf of the City of Sault Ste. Marie and our City Council, it's my pleasure to welcome you to Sault Ste. Marie for the opening of the Economic Developers Council of Ontario Spring Symposium.

I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge John Regan, the President of the Economic Developers Council of Ontario, who is with us today.

Thank you for making the trip up John.

For the municipalities of Ontario, economic development is vital but also challenging work. It is important to have conferences such as these where people in the field can come together to share best practices, examine success stories, and discuss emerging opportunities.

For those who have travelled here for the conference, allow me to welcome you to our naturally gifted community. I'm glad to see that our local EDC has scheduled visits to a number of our local attractions on today's agenda, including the Ermatinger-Clergue Heritage Discovery Centre, the Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre and to the Machine Shop, which is part of our evolving Canal District.

Sault Ste. Marie also offers excellent dining and shopping, as well as many opportunities for outdoor recreation during your free hours. Our waterfront board walk and Hub Trail are nearby and great for walking or jogging.

Conferences such as these are always a big undertaking to plan and organize. I'd like to thank EDCO, the Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation, our hosts here at the Delta Hotel and everyone who had a hand in organizing the symposium.

This year's theme is "Connecting the North to the South." It's my hope that everyone will leave here at the end of the week with a feeling of greater connectivity and mutual understanding. Times are still challenging, and collaboration will be more vital than ever if we wish to enjoy prosperity across this great province.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to speak today, and best wishes to all for a successful and informative symposium.