



PRESS RELEASE

Guelph Chamber Welcomes Commitment to *Going Global Strategy* in Provincial Budget

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Guelph, February 26, 2015: The Guelph Chamber of Commerce welcomes the \$30 million commitment to the *Going Global Strategy* in the Ontario Provincial Budget. As one of the fastest growing communities in Canada and noted 'jobs powerhouse', Guelph businesses are well positioned to expand into new markets and be active players in the global marketplace.

"The Chamber has been actively involved in programs and activities that better connect Guelph businesses with global opportunities," says Kithio Mwanzia, President & CEO of the Guelph Chamber of Commerce. "Through our Guelph Economic Leadership Forum, the Chamber has focused on connecting businesses in a variety of sectors – including agri-food, manufacturing, infrastructure and energy – to expanding market opportunities around the world."

How the Ontario government supports small-and-medium sized enterprises (SMEs) will impact Guelph's economic future. Guelph and Ontario's ability to succeed is tied to the ability to help SMEs become export ready and scalable.

"The announced commitment in the *Going Global Strategy* provides businesses with opportunities to invest, to export, and to take greater advantage of Guelph's supply-chain diversity," continues Mwanzia.

The Guelph Chamber is also pleased to see the Ontario government's commitment to ensure that proceeds from the new cap and trade system are not subsumed under general revenues. As this policy is implemented, government must ensure that SMEs are not adversely affected.

"Government needs to work collaboratively with the business community to shape how the funds in the Greenhouse Gas Reductions Account are allocated. Businesses in Guelph are at the leading edge of clean technology manufacturing, research, design and development. As such, engaging with these businesses as this policy is fully formulated will be vitally important," concludes Mwanzia.

Regarding the Morrision By-Pass Project: while the budget did not explicitly mention a commitment of the inclusion of the Morrision By-Pass Project in the 5 Year Transportation Plan, the Chamber is encouraged to see a continued commitment to strategic infrastructure investment, and will continue to advocate for the inclusion of the Morrision By-Pass Project in the province's 5 Year Transportation Plan.

For more information, contact Kithio Mwanzia, President & CEO, Guelph Chamber of Commerce.

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