

Hundreds of leaders come together to develop economic action plan at May 7th Summit

Representatives from business, institutions, labour, financial services and all three levels of government to facilitate revival of the Greater Toronto Region

TORONTO, May 4 /CNW/ -

What: For the first time ever, regional leaders from many sectors and municipalities in the Greater Toronto Region (GTR) will work together to create an action plan to lift the GTR out of the greatest economic crisis since the 1940s.

Delegates participating in the day-long Greater Toronto Region Economic Summit will focus on four specific areas:

1. Enhancing our financial services sector
2. Restructuring our manufacturing base
3. Building a human capital advantage
4. Promoting research, innovation and creativity

The goal of the Summit is to produce a list of priorities and recommended actions for governments, business and institutions to be implemented within the next six to 18 months.

Recent research (conducted by NANOS RESEARCH) will also be released at the Summit and will provide insight into public opinions on how to plot a course through the current economic crisis. Among other topics, the poll examined the public perception of the role of government, private sector and unions in fighting the downturn.

Why: The Greater Toronto Region is the economic engine of Ontario. Toronto and its surrounding municipalities have been hit hard by the current economic situation. There is an urgent need for the region to be united and work together to implement solutions that will ensure Ontario's future prosperity.

Who: Hon. Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance, Minister Responsible for the GTA, Government of Canada
Hon. Michael Bryant, Minister of Economic Development, Government of Ontario
Mike Wallace, MP (Burlington), Chair, GTA Caucus
Mayor David Miller, City of Toronto
Mayor Hazel McCallion, City of Mississauga
John Honderich, Chair, Torstar Voting Trust
Nik Nanos, President and CEO, NANOS RESEARCH

(An addendum with agenda and full list of speakers is attached.)

When: Thursday, May 7, 2009 - 8:00am - 5:00pm

Where: Seneca College, Allstate Parkway, Markham, Ontario

(xx) Please note that media accreditation will be in effect. Please contact Emma Jowett at ejowett@counselpr.ca to register.

SUMMIT PROGRAM

TIME	ACTIVITY
7:30 a.m.	Registration and Breakfast
8:00 a.m.	Welcome from Summit Co-Chairs Mayor Hazel McCallion and John Honderich
8:10 a.m.	Public Opinion and Toronto's Regional Economy Nik Nanos, Nanos Research
8:30 a.m.	Remarks from the Government of Canada Mike Wallace, MP (Burlington); Chair, GTA Caucus
9 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	Finance Panel Manufacturing and Industry Panel Human Capital Panel Research and Innovation Panel
10:30a.m.	Morning Coffee Break
12:00 p.m.	Address by Hon. Michael Bryant, MPP Ontario's Minister of Economic Development and Trade
12:15 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Address by David Miller Mayor of Toronto
1:30 - 3:45 p.m.	Finance Panel Manufacturing and Industry Panel Human Capital Panel Research and Innovation Panel
4:00 p.m.	Reception and Panel Summary Report Ian Smith, Partner, Oliver Wyman
4:30 p.m.	The Government of Canada and the Greater Toronto Region Hon. Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance and Minister Responsible for the GTA, Government of Canada
4:45 p.m.	Summit Wrap-up Mayor Hazel McCallion and John Honderich

LEADERS INVOLVED

Summit Chairs

- Mayor Hazel McCallion, City of Mississauga and Co-Chair, Greater Toronto Region Economic Summit
- John Honderich, Chair, Torstar Voting Trust and Co-Chair, Greater Toronto Region Economic Summit

Co-Chair Committee

-
- John Cartwright, President, Toronto and York Region Labour Council
 - Len Crispino, President and CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce
 - Steven Del Duca, Director, Public Affairs, The Carpenters' Union
 - Janet Ecker, President, Toronto Financial Services Alliance
 - Janet Holder, President, Enbridge Gas Distribution
 - Frances Lankin, President and CEO, United Way Toronto
 - Dr. Rick Miner, President of Seneca College
 - David O'Brien, President and CEO, Toronto Hydro
 - Kyle Rae, Toronto City Councillor
 - Phil Rubinoff, Chair, Residential & Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario (RCCAO)
 - Jennifer Tory, Regional President, Greater Toronto Region, RBC Royal Bank
 - Carol Wilding, President and CEO, Toronto Board of Trade

Advisory Committee

- Joe Berridge, Urban Strategies
- Curry Clifford, Region of Peel
- Ron Dembo, Zerofootprint
- John Davidson, Region of Halton
- Danielle Francis, Toronto Police Service
- Shirley Hoy, Toronto Lands Corporation
- Doug Lindeblom, Region of Durham
- Andy Manahan, RCCAO
- Patricia McCarney, University of Toronto
- Ratna Omidvar, Maytree Foundation
- David Pecaut, Chair, Toronto City Summit Alliance
- Enid Slack, University of Toronto
- Connie Woo, CAA South Central Ontario

Senior Officials in Attendance

- Mr. Tom Adams, Regional & Local Councillor, Town of Oakville
- Mr. David Cash, Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
- Mr. Stephen Chait, Director, Economic Development, Town of Markham
- Mayor Linda Jackson, City of Vaughan
- Mr. Christopher Kallio, Economic Development Officer, Town of Newmarket
- Ms. Shirley Kam, Manager of Economic Development, City of Vaughn
- Ms. Brenda Osler, Coordinator, Economic Development Programs, Town of Richmond Hill
- Mayor Steve Parish, Town of Ajax
- Mayor Marilyn Pearce, Township of Scugog
- Mr. Larry Petovello, Director, Economic Development, City of Mississauga
- Mayor Frank Scarpitti, Town of Markham
- Mr. Vito Spatafona, Councillor, Town of Richmond Hill
- Ms. Karen Stintz, Toronto City Councillor, Ward 16
- Mr. Paul Ungerman, Senior Policy Advisor, Minister's Office, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

For further information: or media accreditation, please contact: Emma Jowett, Counsel Public Relations, Tel: (416) 961-5898 x 217,
ejowett@counselpr.ca