

## **Regional Chairman Meets with Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Communities**

NIAGARA REGION, January 15, 2009 – Regional Chairman Peter Partington met with John Baird, federal Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Communities today to discuss and advance Niagara Region's infrastructure priorities.

The package that was presented by Chairman Partington will help stimulate Niagara's economy within 120 days and create much needed jobs. The infrastructure package also could be initiated over the next 12 to 24 months to continue to propel the local economy and job creation opportunities. Minister Baird was understanding of Niagara's situation and appreciated the opportunity to be better informed about the economic challenges and the opportunities to work with the federal government to stimulate the local economy.

Also in attendance at the meeting was St. Catharines MP and Parliamentary Assistant to Citizenship and Immigration, Rick Dykstra.

"These projects will provide added stimulus that supports Niagara's economic strategy and will have a major economic impact for Niagara," said Regional Chairman Peter Partington. "Niagara's goal is to partner closely with the federal and provincial governments to ensure that taxpayers receive the biggest impact for their tax dollars in the shortest amount of time. The infrastructure package presented to Minister Baird will benefit the entire region, and I look forward to continue working with the federal government to bring these projects to fruition."

"The Niagara Region is ready, prepared and able to step forward and initiate infrastructure investments which are ready to begin in 2009," said Rick Dykstra. "The more we show our ability in Ottawa to deliver results, the quicker we will put our economy back on track in St. Catharines and in all four corners of Niagara."

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