

# Brampton Benefits From \$1.4B Building Boom

*'Development And Culture Review 2017' Highlights Milestones And Economic Activity*

BRAMPTON: The City of Brampton benefitted from more than \$1.4 billion in construction activity in 2017, in both new construction and expansions. Development activity, and other initiatives gaining momentum in the city, have resulted in more jobs and investment to Brampton.

This week, the City of Brampton released the Brampton Economic Development and Culture Review 2017. Available in print and online, the document highlights 2017 successes and continued positioning for growth in 2018 and beyond. It features cultural milestones and activity in the City's key economic sectors, from significant development projects to profiles of local entrepreneurs moving the needle in the business world.

"This past year saw strong partnerships formed, key initiatives advanced," said Brampton Mayor Linda Jeffrey.

"The number of Brampton businesses grew at almost six per cent – outpacing many of our GTA neighbours. Our population growth, youth, quality of life and diversity continue to make Brampton a great place for businesses to invest and families to grow."

"Brampton is poised for transformation," said Councillor Jeff Bowman, Chair of Economic Development and Culture. "An Economic Development Master



Plan and a Culture Master Plan are currently under development, and a new Brampton 2040 Vision – all important projects supporting the development of cultural vibrancy and economic growth, building a Brampton that is a hub for investment and innovation."

These Master Plans are like strategic roadmaps to show a clear direction and actions to support economic growth and future collaboration within the City, the business community, the arts and culture community and with its post-secondary institutions.

In 2017, Brampton City Council committed up to \$150 million towards a new STEM-focused university and a centre for innovation with two of Canada's leading post-secondary institutions, Ryerson University and Sheridan College.



Brampton's bid for a second Amazon headquarters, presented in partnership with Toronto Global, made the Amazon shortlist. Phase 1 of the new Peel Me-

morial Centre was completed in 2017. ErinoakKids Centre for Treatment and Development opened this spring, representing a \$60 million investment in health

care for local and regional children and youth.

"These are exciting times", said Mayor Jeffrey. "Brampton is poised for a successful future and strong economic growth."

• Review 2017 highlights:  
• The regional unemployment rate that continues to decrease, from 7.1 per cent in December 2016 to 5.7 per cent in December 2017.

• Brampton was ranked 10th in the country for total construction value in 2017, generating over \$1.4 billion in investment. Residential construction totaled \$1 billion in 2017, accounting for some 3,000 housing units.

• Brampton is home to more than 63,000 businesses, with 280 of them employing more than 100 people

• In 2017, commercial construction added 410,000 square feet of floor space to the commercial inventory. 28 retail developments began construction.

• 4,500 entrepreneurs participated in seminars and events hosted by the Brampton Entrepreneur Centre.

• The Brampton Entrepreneur Centre delivered \$155,000 in provincial funding to Brampton entrepreneurs.

• 275,653 people attended 505 performing arts events in Brampton.

• 595,516 people participated in 13 festivals and special events.

## 14th Diversity Procurement Fair Billed As Huge Success

TORONTO: Canadian Aboriginal and Minority Supplier Council (CAMSC) welcomed 400 attendees at the 14th Diversity Procurement Fair recently. Representatives from major North American corporations and Aboriginal and minority-owned suppliers spent two days networking and hearing from leaders in supplier diversity.

"This is the only event of its kind to bring corporations and Aboriginal and minority-owned businesses together to offer opportunities for one-on-one meetings to build business partnerships," said Cassandra Dorrington, President CAMSC. "There are also a number of workshops, panel discussions and various networking sessions."

The Fair began with a networking reception, sponsored by BMO. It featured an African youth dance troupe and welcome remarks by Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural

Affairs. Highlights of the Fair included SD Talks featuring representatives from Walker Law, Topnotch (recruitment agency) and LA Metal Stamping.

The speakers shared the challenges they faced and the lessons learned on the road to success in supplier diversity.

Under the Fair theme "Building Momentum", Louis Green, Interim President, National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC), U.S. delivered the luncheon keynote address about key NMSDC successes in advancing supplier diversity throughout its nearly 50-year history and highlighted examples with key corporate players.

All levels of Canadian governments participated in this year's Diversity Fair. The panel "Navigating the Government Procurement Process" provided valuable information for suppliers who were willing to learn all the ins and outs of doing business with



governments. Tracy MacCharles, Minister of Government and Consumer Services, recognized CAMSC's effort of advancing

economic growth of the Canadian supply chain through the inclusion of Aboriginals and Minority suppliers.

The Fair concluded with the popular Meeting Marketplace, which provided corporate members with the opportunity to meet and recruit prospective Aboriginal and minority-owned suppliers. EY, FCA, GM, PepsiCo, TELUS, Toyota, and RBC were among those potential buyers that suppliers had the opportunity to meet.

More than half a billion dollars' worth of business is contracted annually by CAMSC's members and the Fair is a major forum to start business partnerships

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