

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of Planning and Economic Development Committee

FROM: Bryan Tuckey, Commissioner, Planning and Development Services

DATE: February 2, 2011

RE: **Innovation in Manufacturing Project**

I am pleased to inform Council that funding for the Innovation in Manufacturing Project was issued through the *Articles of Agreement* on December 21, 2010 between Her Majesty the Queen in right of Ontario, as represented by the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities and the Regional Municipality of York in the amount of \$249,997 for the project duration January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011.

Manufacturing is central to York Region's economic future. Engaging and helping to revitalize the manufacturing sector will assist policy makers, innovative manufacturers and investors in identifying competitive opportunities in York Region manufacturing and lay the essential groundwork to encourage new and sustained manufacturing investment at the local level.

Due to the importance of developing the manufacturing sector in each local municipality, project staff will partner with local economic development offices to identify high potential manufacturers to participate in the proposed programs.

Innovation in Manufacturing Project Background:

- A manufacturing sector survey was delivered by Ipsos Reid in fall 2009 resulting in interviews from 301 York Region manufacturers on 92 key performance indicators. The report on Manufacturing Sector Survey Results and the Ipsos Reid Study publication were presented to Council December 16, 2009. The key conclusions were that manufacturers that are most likely to succeed invest in research and development (R&D), sell products nationally and internationally, and secure government financing.
- A Manufacturing Sector Symposium was held in March 2010 resulting in a recommendation that all levels of government, federal, provincial and municipal work with the manufacturing community and partners to develop a Manufacturing Sector Program that would provide vision and leadership for the future and communicate a clear

message that York Region is the place to build and grow innovative manufacturing-based enterprises.

- Regional Council approved a June 2010 report authorizing the Economic Strategy and Tourism Branch to submit a funding application to the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities to implement the Innovation in Manufacturing Project and authorizing the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk to execute funding contracts with federal and provincial programs to help advance the Region's manufacturing sector, subject to the approval of Legal Services.
- In October 2010, the manufacturing community was engaged at a forum to ensure commitment to the program and an Industry Advisory Panel was formed. A final manufacturing project conference is planned for December 8, 2011.
- The project will engage local manufacturing businesses to seize innovation, growth and expansion to adopt the capacity to share information and ideas and form new linkages and networks within the business community. These linkages will be essential to foster conditions where manufacturing innovation can thrive.

If you require additional information, please contact Sharon Vegh, Manager Economic Intelligence & Innovation at 905-830-4444 x 1509 or e-mail at sharon.vegh@york.ca.

Bryan Tuckey

BT/sv