

**Minister of
Economic Development
and Trade**

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Jan 5/05

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Mr. Don Eastwood
Director of Economic Strategy
Planning and Development Services Department
York Region
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket ON L3Y 6Z1

Dear Mr. Eastwood:

I was very pleased to see York Region receive the recognition it deserves as the winner of the Community Export Award at the 2004 Ontario Business Achievement Awards sponsored by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce.

I attended the awards gala on November 10 and would like to take this additional opportunity to recognize York Region's achievements.

York Region is one of the fastest-growing regions, not only in Ontario, but in Canada. Among its many initiatives, I am aware of the region's economic strategy, which includes its export development program; its development of Canada's first long-term care supportive housing program; and its status as a recognized Centre of Excellence for geomatics services. And of course I am well aware of its Small Business Enterprise Centre and its role in assistance to small businesses and entrepreneurs.

With yet another recognition by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, York Region has enhanced Ontario's international reputation as a place where entrepreneurs, businesses and workers can grow and prosper.

I am sure the members of York Region's municipal council share my pleasure in seeing this hard work and dedication recognized publicly, as well as TD Commercial Banking in Newmarket, the nominator for the award.

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Please accept my congratulations on your award, and my thanks for your contribution to Ontario's growth and prosperity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Cordiano', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Joseph Cordiano

c: Mr. Bill Fisch
Regional Chair and CEO
Regional Municipality of York