

Comparable City / Regions

Cities, regions and international bodies are utilizing the knowledge and expertise of their business leaders by organizing events in the form of seminars and conferences and other formats to address issues confronting business. These events create a forum whereby direct feedback can be received from the local business community and assist in the creation and development of strategic initiatives for sustaining growth and ensuring prosperity. Many jurisdictions utilize a form of CEO series-type event for the exchange of information. Participants at the majority of these events are charged a fee ranging from \$55.00 for a morning or afternoon session to \$645.00 for a full two day program including all meals and a networking dinner and reception.

The following are some examples of active business participation in the Province, across Canada, and the United States:

Ontario Wisdom Exchange, now in its twelfth year, is an annual event that draws CEOs of Ontario's leading growth firms, who are committed to growth and innovation coming together to learn, share ideas and make valuable business connections. A firm must meet sales or employment growth criteria to establish eligibility for an invitation. Event topics have included:

- Human Resources Innovation
- Finding the Perfect Alliance
- Marketing Innovation
- Financing Rapid Growth
- Lean Practices
- Doing Business with Government.

The Greater Halifax Partnership is a public-private partnership involving more than 130 private-sector companies, three levels of government and a staff of business professionals who take action to drive economic growth and attract new investment. The Partnership develops projects and initiatives to build and grow the businesses and keep jobs in Halifax. Projects involve working with business leaders, partners, investors, stakeholders and government and guide the Partnership's strategic actions to achieve organizational goals and generate economic growth. Activities and events revolve around the goals of:

- Increasing employment
- Investment attraction
- Maintaining business confidence
- Improving community capacity

Halton Region Business Excellence Series 2005/2006 was a nine-week series of events designed for CEOs, principals and senior executives of companies with \$5 million or more in revenue. The local business leaders were offered the opportunity for candid dialogue with a variety of business experts. The series provided strategies to address business challenges and insights to accelerate growth through strategic planning, improved operations and the penetration of new markets.

Event topics included:

- Employee Engagement
- ROI in Business
- Marketplace Differentiation
- Measuring Business
- External Communication
- Performance Management

The Greater Houston Partnership is an advocate for regional business that brings together the business leaders of 10 counties. Fortune 500 companies, entrepreneurs, non profit partners and regional lawmakers who work together to achieve economic prosperity and a greater quality of life for their entire region. More than 2,000 member companies collaborate daily on more than 40 committees, three councils and 10 advisory boards. Upcoming event topics for some 2007 events include:

- Emerging Global Opportunities
- Logistics Competitiveness
- Workforce Development