



## MEDIA RELEASE

### City and Firefighters Reach Three Year Agreement

**For Immediate Release – December 16, 2009 – 1:00 p.m.**

**Welland** – The City of Welland and the Welland Professional Firefighters Association reached a three year agreement yesterday.

Negotiations began in the fall of 2008 and came to a close yesterday with the signing of a three year agreement covering the period January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2011. “The terms of the agreement are comparable to other contracts in place in municipalities throughout Niagara Region and across the province”, states Mike Fowler, President of the Welland Professional Firefighters Association. “Given the current economic conditions, our Association believes this new collective agreement is not only fair and equitable but also responsible”, continues Fowler.

Some of the highlights of the new agreement include changes to hours of work and a commitment to review and develop a new promotional process, in addition to wage increases of 2% January 1, 2009, 1% July 1, 2009, 2% January 1, 2010, 1% July 1, 2010, 2% January 1, 2011, and .75% July 1, 2011.

Rosanne Mantesso, General Manager of Human Resources for the City was pleased with the outcome of negotiations. “This is the first contract in some time that has come to a successful conclusion without the need for arbitration and I think I can say we are all happy with the results of negotiations”, said Mantesso. “Both parties in this negotiation worked hard to achieve an in-house settlement, which was possible due to the cooperative efforts of the Association and the Corporation.”

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For more information contact:  
Rosanne Mantesso, General Manager  
Human Resources  
Tel: (905) 735-1700 ext. 2270

City of Welland  
60 East Main Street  
Welland, ON L3B 3X4