



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 29, 2016

YOUTH ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION HELD IN WELLAND

Welland, ON- Several topics flowed from a roundtable discussion held today at Civic Square in the Community Room. The Honourable Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs met with Mayor Frank Campion, Niagara dignitaries, and local youth leaders. Mayor Campion was delighted to host a discussion that could serve as a building block to Welland's strategic planning.

With the main focus of the discussion exploring ways on how to retain and attract youth in rural communities; the conversation flowed toward conditions that help attract youth to rural Ontario, as-well-as barriers youth face in rural Ontario, and how municipalities can engage youth in civic leadership roles.

Mayor Campion and participating dignitaries were eager to join in the roundtable discussion that will assist the Ministry with preparing priorities and topics for the 2016 Rural Ontario Summit. Mayor Campion felt that the voice of Welland was definitely heard at the roundtable. "Building a Welland that retains our youth and also attracts young graduates from Niagara College to stay in Welland is favourable to our economy," said Campion. "As a Youth Friendly Community it's essential to invest in our youth, and ensure they have access and support to a variety of opportunities."

Minister Leal has had the opportunity to meet and chat with people all over the Province who also want to build a better future for Ontario's Youth. He feels everyone has a role to play in strengthening rural communities. "I believe that responsible rural leadership means ensuring the next generation can have a bright and successful future in rural Ontario. Finding a good job or getting access to high quality health care and education shouldn't mean having to move to an urban area," said Leal. "While the needs of urban and rural Ontarians are often the same, the way these needs are met can be very different."

For more information on the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs visit omafra.gov.on.ca, or regarding City of Welland's Youth Friendly Initiatives visit welland.ca.



For more information, contact:

Mayor Frank Campion
905-735-1700 Ext. 2101
mayor@welland.ca