

For Immediate Release
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WELLAND ATTRACTS ALMOST 1.5 MILLION SQ. FT. OF NEW INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The City of Welland has attracted almost 1.5 million sq. ft of new industrial development since 2015 as a result of its “pro-development” approach and its financial incentive programs.

The city offers a variety of Community Improvement Plan (CIP) programs and financial incentives to attract investment through its Brownfield CIP; Downtown and Health and Wellness Cluster CIP; Gateway Economic Zone CIP; Development Charge Reduction Programs, and Tax Increment Grants (TIGs). Many of these programs are funded jointly by the City of Welland and the Region of Niagara. These incentives have attracted the following Gateway CIP investments:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Sq. Ft.</u>
General Electric	490,000
Bertie & Clinton Insurance	21,736
Masonry Production Facility (details TBA)	300,000
Lumber/Wood Products (details TBA)	188,414
Niagara Holdings – food processing	19,550
Hydac	13,067
Devron Sales Ltd.	11,528
Northern Gold	165,916
Athena Donair	22,398
Salit Steel	174,000
Gillor Holdings Limited	<u>8,095</u>
TOTAL	1,414,704

These developments represent over \$400 million in private sector investment and 375 new jobs for Welland.

The city has also experienced a significant uptake in its Downtown Health and Wellness Cluster CIP incentives, and its Brownfield CIP programs, both of which are leveraging private sector investment. Last week, City Council approved a new and expanded Brownfield CIP program that provides additional incentives for investors.

<u>Incentive Programs</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Project Costs</u>
Downtown Health & Wellness CIP	2017 & 2018 to date	\$869,252	\$6.97 million
Brownfield CIP	2017 & 2018 to date	\$377,353	\$7.08 million

“City Council has been very supportive of these strategic incentive programs that have been so crucial to our success in attracting investment, creating jobs, creating economic spinoffs such as more housing development, bringing new residents to our city, and diversifying our economy,” said Welland Mayor Frank Campion. “The city and the Region jointly fund and administer many of these programs through a successful partnership. While I’m concerned by the current incentive program review currently underway at the Region, I’m confident they will continue and be enhanced. The numbers here in Welland prove they are an indispensable tool for attracting much needed investment to our city and the Region.”

The city's Development Team meet regularly to review projects and ensure that staff and key Divisions are aligned in supporting the city's growth and development agenda, and are working collaboratively with investors. The city is also creating a second industrial business park with serviced lots to meet demand.

Investor interest in the city's industrial lands is also helping to generate interest in residential development. Based on city and Region growth projections, the city is expected to grow by almost 19,000 residents by 2041, which would push the city's population over 70,000. Last year, 223 new residential dwelling units were created in the city, which represented the highest number in 10 years. To date, 128 new residential dwelling units have been created, compared with 87 units created this time last year. The city is on track to create 300 new units by the end of 2018.

"In addition to our incentive programs, businesses are benefitting from affordable land in Welland/Niagara, a skilled work force, multi-modal transportation options including highways and trade corridors to global markets, and access to leading research and innovation offered by Niagara College and Brock University," said Dan Degazio, the city's Director of Economic Development. "I speak with investors and developers every day, and I know how important these incentives are to their business plans and decisions. For Welland/Niagara, they're giving us a competitive advantage in a global economy."

For more information about the city's incentive programs, visit www.welland.ca, or www.madeinwelland.ca.

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