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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



**FORKS ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT INCLUDED IN MOU**

**City Signs MOU With Empire Communities to Grow Welland Neighbourhoods**

**Welland, ON** - Mayor Frank Campion and Daniel Guizzetti, President of Empire Communities, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) this afternoon at Welland Civic Square. The MOU will support a proposed development at the former John Deere site and Dain East Lands. Empire Communities is able to move forward with the development project due to support of the city's Community Improvement Plans (CIP) and Financial Incentives.

The MOU outlines a long list of agreements, which includes 2,500 new residential units in Welland. New walkways, parks, playgrounds and splash pads will enhance the new neighbourhoods.

Empire Communities has committed to building a new Forks Road Bridge, which also includes a new roadway and urbanization of Forks Rd., from the Kingsway to the east limit of Forks Rd. The city has been securing government funding for a new Forks Road Bridge since its closure in 2018.

The MOU includes a new multi-use sports facility at the Welland International Flatwater Centre (WIFC). Residents can stay active with new tennis courts, beach volleyball courts, pickleball courts, basketball courts, a yoga/stretching area, and a new clubhouse. In addition, Empire Communities has agreed to purchase naming rights of the sports parks, which will bring a new brand to the developments.

"It's partnerships such as this that build stronger communities," said Mayor Frank Campion. "We're pleased to welcome Empire Communities to Welland's list of successful partnerships. Empire's expertise and experience will enrich our city, and add to our road and recreational infrastructure, to the benefit of Welland's residents."

"We at Empire Communities are very proud and happy to have been able to work collaboratively with the City of Welland to come to this Memorandum of Understanding," said Daniel Guizzetti, President of Empire Communities. "We are indeed very excited to be able to play a significant role in helping to revitalize this part of the city, specifically for the benefit of all future residents of this new master-planned community, as-well-as for the residents of the City of Welland and Niagara Region at large."

For more information on the City of Welland and Community Improvement Plan Financial Incentives, visit [www.welland.ca](http://www.welland.ca).



**Left to Right:** Travers Fitzpatrick, Daniel Guizzetti, Stephen Armstrong, Mayor Frank Campion, Steve Zorbas

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