



Media Release

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Brampton Downtown Development Corporation (BDDC) Launches Dedicated Web Page to Access Information on City Hall Expansion

City Hall Expansion – be informed

Brampton, ON—The Brampton Downtown Business Corporation (BDDC) announces the launch of a dedicated web page that will function as a single access point to information about the proposed expansion of Brampton’s City Hall.

The web page can be accessed at http://www.bramptondowntown.com/cityhall_home.html. It provides easy and convenient access to media coverage, City documents and reports, plus any other relevant information regarding the important issue of City Hall expansion.

Since the attraction of new business and investment in Downtown Brampton is part of the mandate of the BDDC, the organization is a passionate proponent of moving forward with a mixed-use City Hall expansion project now.

There is no disputing that the City of Brampton needs more space to house its employees. The City has been utilizing an interim space strategy to satisfy its growing space needs, which has resulted in staff working from several locations in the city. This arrangement is costing the City millions of dollars on lease payments, leasehold improvements and staff time and travel costs. The City is also taking up commercial office space in the downtown core, which could otherwise be occupied by private businesses.

While there is agreement that permanent space will be required at some point, there appears to be some disagreement on whether now is the right time to build.



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Neil Davis, Acting Chair of the BDDC, stated: "We have, in my opinion, a very small window to get this done and save tens of millions of dollars for tax payers. I think everybody agrees that at some point in time, we have to build this space. There is no better time than now. Borrowing rates are very low, and construction costs have fallen for the first time in years. The city has the option of borrowing internally, too, from the funds set up with the proceeds from the sale of Brampton Hydro years ago. Alternative external borrowing would not hurt the city's credit rating, since it would have the money invested in an asset – City Hall."

The BDDC is gearing up for City Council's debate and decision on June 24, 2009 – whether to expand city hall immediately or continue to wait. It is with this in mind that the launch of the dedicated web page will be a valuable resource in forming an opinion about this important issue.

When asked about the web page, Karen Campbell, President of the BDDC, remarked "I believe that by making all pertinent information about the City Hall expansion conveniently available in one location, interested parties such as BDDC members, key stakeholders and the general public of Brampton will be able to form an educated opinion about this important issue.

The BDDC believes that a project of this magnitude will provide a welcome boost to the local economy and send a message to the private sector of the City of Brampton's commitment to and confidence in the Downtown.

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ABOUT THE BRAMPTON DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Brampton Downtown Development Corporation (BDDC) is a non-profit corporation whose mission is to strengthen the prosperity, quality and vitality of Downtown Brampton. The BDDC is a public-private partnership between the 350 businesses and commercial property owners in the historic Downtown core and the City of Brampton. Its mandate is to market and promote the downtown to attract new business and investment, as well as represent the interests of its members.