

August 11, 2008



Re: Arts Community Forum: Thursday, August 28, 2008

We invite you to participate in an important forum for the Arts Community at Kitchener City Hall in the Rotunda on Thursday, August 28, 2008 from 1 to 4 p.m. (with a social hour from 4 to 5 p.m.) to help plan how our community will continue to prosper. Let us tell you more about our request.

We are the Co-Chairs of the Prosperity Council Task Force on Creative Dimensions in Prosperity. We hosted a forum for the community last spring at the King Street Theatre Centre to begin an important dialogue. We have spent the past year engaged in research and planning to move the creative agenda forward. We are now working towards engaging the business sector in a forum in September and are asking you to help us create input for the forum and some portions of the agenda.

Our intent on August 28 is to bring you up to speed on our work, what we have learned and more importantly what we are planning. After giving you a chance to ask us questions and dialogue with colleagues on the answers, we plan to break into smaller groups to discuss several key questions. The work from these groups will be transcribed and summarized for use by the forum in September.

For your information, appended is the text we have sent to business leaders to ask them to hold the September date in their calendars. You will see that we have approached them from the perspective on creativity that is most meaningful to them.

Please email Carrie Kozlowski at carrie.kozlowski@kitchener.ca if you will be joining us on August 28.

Thank you for taking time from a busy summer to assist us with this important community project. We look forward to this and future opportunities to work together with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "R Farwell".

Roger Farwell,
rfarwell@twfp.com
519-576-2150 x202

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Jamie Martin".

Jamie Martin,
jmartin@millერთhomson.com
519-593-3247

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "T. Jackson".

Tim Jackson
jackson@techcapital.com
519-883-8255

Co-chairs – Prosperity Council Task Force on Creative Dimensions in Prosperity

Appendix

“China produces more post-secondary graduates each year than the entire population of Canada and it is also now the largest producer of Ph.D. engineers and scientists in the world, so we can’t compete on scale. The only way for Canada to compete on the global stage is to invest in quality.” - Mike Lazaridis

We compete globally for talent. Our region’s prosperity is directly linked to winning this contest. Waterloo Region is rooted in traditions of innovation, entrepreneurship, collaboration and reinvestment. Join other community leaders in September to figure out how to build on these traditions to win the talent contest.

We met this kind of challenge in the 1950’s when a local solution enabled a fundamental paradigm shift. Business leaders recognized the importance of engineering and equipping Canada with the engineering skills that it would need. Their mantra was “Wanted 150,000 Engineers”. The result was the creation of the University of Waterloo. New attitudes toward cooperation with industry and government and a revolutionary approach to intellectual property ownership propelled the University to national and international importance.

Today we are at the tipping point of another paradigm shift – “Wanted 250,000 creative minds”. To attract and keep them, we need to build a creative, vibrant, thriving, active community. This is a shared goal of all of us – business, government and the arts and culture community.