



City of Thorold Capital and Operating Budget 2011

A Presentation to Budget Committee of the Whole
CEO Remarks

Prepared by the St. Catharines – Thorold Chamber of Commerce

March 22, 2011

Good Evening Mayor Luciani, City Councillors, and members of city staff. My name is Walter Sendzik, and I am the CEO of the St. Catharines – Thorold Chamber of Commerce. I am joined by Kithio Mwanzia, the Chamber’s Director of Policy and Government Relations.

On behalf of the Chamber, I would first like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on Thorold’s 2011 Capital and Operating Budgets.

As this is our first presentation to council since the election, I would like to extend our congratulations to those who were re-elected and to those newly elected members of council. We look forward to working with you over the next four years as we work together to build a stronger, more robust and sustainable economy in Niagara.

As the voice of business, the St. Catharines – Thorold Chamber of Commerce is committed to ensuring that there is a vibrant business and investment environment in our community. One of our responsibilities as a member driven organization representing over 1200 businesses and 28,000 employees is to provide input on the annual city budget.

As Thorold works to become a prime destination for investment and encourages the growth of a diversified and sustainable economic base, sound public finances make it possible to maintain a competitive tax burden and ensure both the quality and sustainability of public services. They are evidence of stability for individuals and businesses, as well as encouraging economic growth and wealth creation.

Our comments this evening are guided by analysis from Chamber staff, the Finance and Taxation Committee, the Board of Directors as well as business members from Thorold. Through this process, we have developed five key areas:

- 1. Development of a long term fiscal plan for Thorold**
- 2. Encouraging private investment through leveraging Thorold's assets**
- 3. Using the hydro reserve interest for long term planning**
- 4. Economic development**
- 5. The Office of the Auditor General at the Region**

I will now turn it to Kithio to provide some additional details on the areas we identified.