



Office of the Mayor

WAYNE H. REDEKOP

October 3, 2005

Re: Mayor's Forum on Diversity and Inclusion: From an Experience of Exclusion to an Experience of Inclusion – November 17, 2005

Diversity enriches our communities and strengthens the strands of our social fabric. Knowledge, skills and abilities from different ethnic and cultural perspectives improve our collective creativity, imagination and our quality of life. There is also a compelling economic case for diversity.

In our increasingly global economy, variety in our experiences and achievements creates competitive advantage – for business, governments, neighbourhoods and regions. Experts estimate that 75% of an organization's value is directly linked to its so-called human capital (people and their abilities to be productive). In other words, these assets aren't captured on balance sheets but in the hearts and minds of the people within the organization.

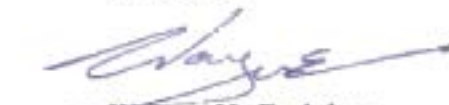
We must collectively sharpen the edge of our competitive advantage on the stone of diversity and inclusion to realize and sustain our region's potential in a vibrant economy, a highly skilled labour force and an enviable quality of life.

With that in mind, please join me on November 17, 2005 for the "**Mayor's Forum on Diversity and Inclusion: From an Experience of Exclusion to an Experience of Inclusion**", where we will explore the issue of diversity and inclusion and learn from speakers who have taken strong action on the issue. I am asking progressive community stakeholders like you to join me in creating a local plan of action for diversity and inclusion, and a call for action.

The forum will feature outstanding speakers such as Sylvia Maracle, who has been involved in Aboriginal Friendship Centres for over 30 years, Dana Robbins from the Hamilton Spectator, Arlene Terry from IBM, and Kaye Leslie from Scotia Bank. Our honoured guest and keynote speaker will be Dr. Raymond Moriyama, one of Canada's most respected architects and Chancellor of Brock University. The session will run from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm, and will include lunch. A flyer outlining the events of the day has been provided for your review.

There is no advance preparation required. We simply ask you that you come ready to participate in identifying what steps we as a community could take to embrace cultural and ethnic diversity. Please complete the attached registration form at your earliest convenience to confirm your attendance. Spaces are limited, so make sure you register to secure your place.

Sincerely,



Wayne H. Redekop
Mayor

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