



February 25, 2010

Council of The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward
332 Main Street
Picton, ON K0K 2T0

Dear Mayor Finnigan and Councillors,

We are pleased to support the economic development initiatives proposed for the year ahead by Economic Development Officer, Dan Taylor.

Prince Edward County is frequently described as an example of outstanding, innovative economic development across the province, and is enjoying national and international exposure through articles in the National Post, Fortune Magazine, and CNN's website. We also note that of the images promoting Ontario in television commercials during the 2010 Winter Olympics, one-third are from Prince Edward County.

It is clear Prince Edward County has benefited from the economic development initiatives championed by Mr. Taylor. The creative workforce has increased, outpacing the provincial average. Mr. Taylor was instrumental in bringing one of our research partners, Petra Cooper, to Prince Edward County where she established Fifth Town Artisan Cheese Company. Ms. Cooper's operation is an example of Mr. Taylor's innovative creative economy work that is focused on a "sustainable" approach that builds on existing strengths and capitalizes on emerging trends. Mr. Taylor has played a key leadership role in generating the report on Canada's Creative Corridor report, and will share his insights at an upcoming session entitled "The creative economy in Ontario: A Prince Edward County case example", which is part of the Creative Economy Seminar Series sponsored by The Monieson Centre and Prince Edward/Lennox & Addington Community Futures Development Corporation. Further information is available at: <http://business.queensu.ca/centres/monieson/events/Creative%20Economy%20Seminars.php>

The Monieson Centre also values Mr. Taylor's informed input on a five-year, \$1 million proposal to study rural economic development that is currently under review by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. This proposal is part of an ongoing alliance among Prince Edward County, PELA CFDC and Queen's University.

Prince Edward County has also provided a rich learning environment for students at Queen's University. For example, Dr. Donald brought teams of geography students to the County in 2008

to do field studies and created the report, Growing the Creative-Rural Economy in Prince Edward County, <http://www.buildanewlife.ca/site/images/pdf/finalreporttopecgphy337.pdf> that has influenced rural policy and decision makers.

It is a pleasure to collaborate with Mr. Taylor on research and teaching that enhances the economic and social fabric of the thriving creative economy leader that Prince Edward County has become.

Yours sincerely,



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