



Colin Carrie MP
Oshawa



Focus Oshawa: Local and Regional Councillors meet with top federal Ministers in Ottawa

For immediate release.

OTTAWA, February 25, 2009 – Colin Carrie, Member of Parliament for Oshawa and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health, was pleased to host the Chair of the City of Oshawa's Strategic Initiative Committee, Tito-Dante Marimpietri, along with fellow Oshawa Regional and Local Councillors John Henry and John Neal, for a round of meetings with top federal Ministers and departmental officials in Ottawa this week.

The morning meetings had the delegates from Oshawa sitting down with Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development Diane Finley along with officials to discuss recent changes to the Employment Insurance (EI) program.

"Today, on behalf of the City of Oshawa, I was able to present a notice of motion to help retrain electricians in the renewable energy field," said Councillor John Henry. "This motion has not yet been passed by council, but thanks to these meetings, I was able to place this directly in the hands of the Minister. To discuss Oshawa workers' EI issues directly with Minister Finley was an honour and a privilege."

That meeting was followed by a visit to Transport Canada to address the Oshawa Harbour and how best to realize other potential infrastructure projects for the City of Oshawa. The morning sessions wrapped up with a briefing on the automotive file from Industry Canada officials.

"We are in the process today of ensuring Oshawa will be at the forefront when it comes to the unprecedented strategic community infrastructure investments the federal government is bringing forward," said Councillor Tito-Dante Marimpietri. "We are working in good faith to promote our community's future economic growth and help reposition ourselves to be competitive for future generations," he added.

"New opportunities in fields such as research and development present the possibility of creating new sustainable jobs. Having the ear of these Ministers and the Government of Canada is critical for Oshawa's future," noted Councillor Marimpietri.

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“The growth of UOIT and Durham College is vital to the future success of the city. I brought these concerns directly to Minister Goodyear and Minister Prentice,” said Councillor John Neal. “I was provided with the proper avenues to explore and was introduced to the people who can help Oshawa realize these projects.”

The afternoon session began with a meeting with the Minister of Industry Tony Clement and officials with Science and Technology. The local councillors were also able to speak directly with Minister of Transport and Infrastructure John Baird.

“I was pleased and encouraged by the events of the past few days. Having different levels of government working together on a positive note is absolutely essential given the time constraints placed on this new infrastructure spending,” said MP Colin Carrie.

“Dithering on issues of concern to Oshawa is not acceptable. It is very clear the Councillors and I are on the same page and our commitment to continued cooperation will ensure results are delivered.”

The Councillors were both impressed and humbled by some afternoon face time with Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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