

Tim Hortons back, Harper credits low corporate taxes



Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Finance Minister Jim Flaherty order double-doubles in celebration of Tim Hortons' return to Canada. PMO photo by Jason Ransom

STAFF REPORTER

Oakville

PRIME Minister Stephen Harper has highlighted the success of his government's record of lowering corporate tax rates to attract business to Canada, after meeting executives of Tim Hortons on September 23. Shareholders of the multinational corporation had voted to reorganize as a Canadian public company the previous day.

"Since first coming into office, our government has helped set the conditions for Canadian businesses to succeed and to make Canada a great place to do business," said Harper. "Tim Hortons' decision shows our strategy is working."

The Harper Government has made Canada more competitive by reducing the general corporate income tax rate from over 22 per cent to 19 per cent. Through these and

other policies, the Government is helping to create jobs now and is laying the foundation for long-term economic growth. By 2010, Canada will achieve the lowest overall tax rate in the G7 on new business investment.

"Our government has reduced taxes, paid down debt and invested in the infrastructure projects that businesses need to succeed," said the Prime Minister. "Canada has not been immune from the global economic downturn and our Government remains hard at work to protect Canadians and to ensure our country's recovery. However, Canada continues to fare better than many others, and is clearly an attractive investment destination."

Tim Hortons was founded in Canada in 1964. In 1995, the company merged with the US firm Wendy's International Inc. In 2006, it was spun off to become its own separate US company.

Regional Municipality of York to receive \$448,000 in Govt funding

SWATI TRIPATHI

Newmarket

IMMIGRANTS in the York Region will have improved access to services to help them successfully integrate into their communities as a result of a new Local Immigration Partnership initiative.

The announcement was made by Newmarket-Aurora MP Lois Brown, Vaughan MPP Greg Sorbara and York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch.

The Regional Municipality of York will receive \$448,000 in Government of Canada funding for the initiative, which includes the establishment of a local partnership council.

This council will develop a settlement strategy to identify delivery models, initiatives and projects tailored to assist newcomers. It will be comprised of municipal representatives, employers, school boards and settlement and social service agencies. Between 2001 and 2006, York Region has welcomed 46,460 recent immigrants.

"This initiative will enhance the municipality's ability to help newcomers integrate," said MP Brown, on behalf of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney. "Improving access to services that make the integration process easier will benefit not only newcomers, but communities across Ontario."

The funding is being provided through the Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement, a partnership between Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration. Almost \$3 million will be allocated to municipalities and ser-

vice provider organizations across Ontario to establish the partnerships.

"Newcomers are important to Ontario's economic and social prosperity," said MPP Sorbara, on behalf of Provincial Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Michael Chan. "Helping them succeed in their communities is a good investment for all Ontarians."

"The Regional Municipality of York has the third largest recent immigrant population in Ontario," said Mr. Fisch. "This funding will help York Region enhance partnerships with community agencies and develop a coordinated, tailor-made local immigration settlement strategy. This strategy will be designed

to assist newcomers with local settlement, language and employment supports to successfully integrate and participate in their new communities."

Settlement services are an essential part of the Government of Canada's immigration program. Since 2006, the Government of Canada has sub-

stantially increased funding to support settlement programs and services. An additional \$1.4 billion is being invested over a five-year period in all provinces and territories outside Quebec, which has responsibility for settlement services through the Canada-Quebec Accord. Increasing the uptake of immigrant settlement programs was identified as a government priority in the 2008 Speech from the Throne.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada funds a number of programs that help newcomers settle, adapt and integrate into Canadian society. These programs are delivered in partnership with provinces, territories, service-providing organizations and other stakeholders.

The funding, to help newcomers in York region settle, adapt and integrate into Canadian society, is being provided through the Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement

NIMDAC raises \$100,000 for Heart & Stroke Foundation

RENU MEHTA

Mississauga

A HIGH end fundraiser recently raised thousands of dollars to benefit the Heart and Stroke foundation. The fundraising gala, that had on its list the who's who of the community who lined up to contribute for the cause, raised more than \$100,000 in a single evening. Hosted by North Indian Medical and Dental Association of Canada (NIMDAC), an association of doctors and dentists of Indian origin, the prestigious gala held at the Mississauga Convention Center on September 27 attracted more than 400 people.

"This gala was educational for the people who attended to participate in this cause," said Dr. Asha Seth, a Toronto gynaecologist and obstetrician as well as secretary of NIMDAC and chief organizer of the event. "The Heart and Stroke Foundation is a leader in eliminating heart disease and stroke, reducing their impact through the advancement of research and its application, promotion of healthy living and advocacy."

Keynote speaker David Sculthorpe, CEO of Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario spoke at length about the Foundation and how the funds raised would benefit generations to come.

The upscale audience was treated to an ar-



Left: Dr. Asha Seth, founding president of NIMDAC Foundation, Dr. Arun Seth, member and Senator Con DiNino
Right: Dr. Milan Gupta, David Sculthorpe, CEO of Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, Senator Con DiNino and Dr. Asha Luthra



ray of high end entertainment, a silent auction, dinner as well as dancing to DJ music.

"In 2008, NIMDAC Foundation donated over \$100,000 to Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons. This year, our charitable function has been able to raise funds for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada and hope you may be able to support through generous

sponsorship. Heart disease is the number one killer in Canada and we need ample funds for research.

NIMDAC first came into being in 1993 and has over 150 life members and 400 active members with a mandate to provide members with the most important current medical literature and scientific and education programs.

"Our mandate is to teach, to learn and to raise awareness. As medical professionals, we pride ourselves with knowing the most updated information so we can help those in need in every capacity," says Seth.

The organization has raised money in the past for the Hospital for Sick Children, the Heart & Stroke Foundation and for those affected by the tsunami in 2001.