



FLAMBOROUGH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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**Presented at the 2026 Budget Consultation, located at the Carmens Event Centre at 1520 Stone Church Rd E Hamilton ON L8W 3P9, on Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
Each testimony was given three minutes of speaking time.:**

Good morning. My name is Matteo Patricelli, and I'm the Executive Director of the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce, representing a community in remarkable transformation.

Flamborough is a place of duality - heritage and momentum. On one hand, we're home to multi-generational farms and agritourism enterprises. On the other, we're experiencing significant industrial and residential growth that's reshaping our economic profile. Our rural heritage remain core to our identity while at the same time we've experienced significant growth and investment. For example, at the intersection of Highway 5 and 6, a transformative mixed-use development is underway: 400 acres spanning industrial operations, retail space, and nearly 4,000 new residential units, with Fortune 500 companies and global enterprises already headquartered here. When complete, this development alone will anchor many jobs across advanced manufacturing, medical technology, aerospace, and logistics.

This is economic growth Ontario needs. But it cannot succeed without strategic provincial support.

We have three urgent priorities for the 2026 budget:

First: Rural broadband infrastructure. Our industrial park tenants, our manufacturers, our small businesses cannot compete without gigabit-capable internet. Fiber-optic infrastructure is as critical to us as roads. We need the province to dramatically expand its broadband targets and commit to ensuring complete coverage by 2027. This is infrastructure investment that pays dividends immediately - enabling businesses to expand, companies to relocate, and talent to stay in Flamborough.

Second: Infrastructure investment aligned with growth. We're about to welcome thousands of new residents and are experiencing unprecedented commercial expansion. But our roads, water systems, and transit connections haven't kept pace. The Highway 5 and 6 provincial overpass project is excellent - it shows what partnership looks like. We need to extend that commitment. Increase the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund. Expand predictable multi-year funding for water, wastewater, and transportation networks. Ontario has an opportunity to make that investment now, not years from now.

Third: Workforce alignment. With a significant number of new jobs coming - in advanced manufacturing, medical technology, construction, healthcare services - we need provincial partnership on workforce development. Fund partnerships between our community colleges and

employers to create direct pathways into quality, skilled employment. This is how you build economic resilience and keep talent from leaving rural communities.

Flamborough is not asking for subsidies or special treatment. We're asking for infrastructure and policy that unlocks genuine economic momentum already underway. When you invest in broadband, core infrastructure, and workforce development in communities like ours, you're not just helping Flamborough. You're strengthening Ontario's industrial competitiveness, diversifying the Golden Horseshoe economy, and creating the conditions for sustainable, broadly shared growth.

We're building something significant here. With the right provincial support, we can accelerate it.

Thank you.



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