



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **SCOR Members meet with Regional MP's**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 7, 2012, Tillsonburg:**

On Saturday, February 4th, the South Central Ontario Region (SCOR) Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors consulted with the Members of Parliament of the Region to discuss issues and possibilities for economic development prior to the federal budget.

The MPs present were: Joe Preston, MP, Elgin-Middlesex-London; Dave McKenzie, MP, Oxford; and Bev Shipley, MP, Lambton-Kent-Middlesex. Due to pressing matters, Phil McColeman, MP, Brant and MP Diane Finley, MP, Haldimand-Norfolk were unable to attend.

SCOR members were especially pleased to have the opportunity to thank Joe Preston for his work as one of the founding members and "godfather" of SCOR and to congratulate him on his appointment as Chair of the Canadian Rural Caucus.

They further took the opportunity to congratulate MP Bev Shipley on his appointment as the Chair of the Southern Ontario Caucus and to recognize support from other Members of Parliament, including Minister Finley, who, as Regional Minister for Southwestern Ontario, ensures that the Region has a local voice at the cabinet table.

SCOR's presentation included discussions on:

- The recommendation to provide political support to have the offices of the Federal Minister Responsible for FedDev Ontario, Minister Goodyear, and the Provincial Minister responsible for the Southwest Ontario Development Fund, Minister Duguid, work together on the provinces \$20M fund to create a \$40 million annual fund as a continued investment in the region;
- Presentation of a strong case for the need for investment in innovative and emerging technologies in areas such as: water research, bio-fuels, new crops (e.g. hazel nuts) and energy from waste; and
- The need for continued political and financial support to SCOR for sustainability through a program that would have SCOR steer regional funding for economic development projects.

"The meeting was cordial, informative and free flowing, with MPs and SCOR members exchanging ideas. There was ample discussion concerning opportunities related to economic development in the SCOR area", said SCOR Chair, Dennis Travale.

"This was a terrific meeting and I want to thank the members of SCOR and my colleagues for this opportunity to have a free and open discussion on economic development in our region." said MP Bev Shipley. " These discussions will be instrumental as part of our pre budget consultations with stakeholders", said Lambton Kent Middlesex, MP Bev Shipley.

The meeting is a further indication of the cooperative spirit that helped to form and continues to drive SCOR Economic Development Corporation and its members.

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*Page 1 of 1*