

News Release



For Immediate Release
March 6, 2007

FEDERAL MINISTER TO ADDRESS THE OAKVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

OAKVILLE, ON – The Oakville Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a luncheon with special guest the Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, on Thursday March 15th. The Minister is expected to speak briefly on various business developments and opportunities in the north.

“We are very pleased to have the opportunity to host the Minister. It speaks well for the community and the Chamber that he has chosen to visit Oakville and meet with our Members,” stated Chamber President Stephen Sparling. “We are working to raise Oakville’s profile and keep it top of mind with key business and political leaders. We have been very pleased with our success to date. Over the past 16 months we have brought 12 prominent business and political leaders to town. We had the pleasure of hosting Elizabeth May last month, and the Prime Minister in the fall.”

John Scott Vice President of the Chamber commented; “In addition to raising Oakville’s profile we want to provide an opportunity for our Members and their guests to hear directly from our leaders. Perhaps even more important, these events give the leaders an opportunity to hear directly from our Members.” Mr Scott added; “Our membership represents a very broad and diverse range of views and we welcome the opportunity to host political leaders from all parties. Politically, the Chamber is strictly non-partisan.”

Sponsored by Policy Alliance Inc, the sit-down lunch will be held at the Homewood Suites by Hilton – Toronto/Oakville, 2095 Winston Park Drive. On Thursday, March 15th from 11:30am to 1:30pm. Tickets are \$15.

For more information, or to register, contact Jad at 905-845-6613 ext. 28 or jad@oakvillechamber.com.

Over the past year the Chamber has hosted events with a number of high profile elected officials. Including; Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Green Party Leader Elizabeth May, Opposition Leader John Tory, Minister Michael Chong, Minister Chris Bentley, Minister Steve Peters, Minister David Caplan, Minister Marie Bountrogianni, Kevin Flynn, MPP, and Ted Chudleigh, MPP.

For additional information contact:

John Sawyer
Executive Director
Oakville Chamber of Commerce
905-845-6613 ext 31
johnsawyer@oakvillechamber.com

BACKGROUND:

The Oakville Chamber of Commerce is the voice of the Oakville business community. We provide member benefits which include advocacy, corporate benefits, networking opportunities, business development and educational forums. Our mission is to foster a healthy economic environment for Oakville.

A not-for-profit organization, the Oakville Chamber of Commerce was established in 1949. The Chamber has grown to over 1000 member businesses representing over 37,000 employees. The Chamber is one of the largest associations of any kind in the Town of Oakville.



The Honourable Jim Prentice

**Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal
Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians**

Calgary North–Centre (Alberta)

Jim Prentice was elected to the House of Commons in 2004 and was re-elected in 2006. He has served as Critic for Indian Affairs and Northern Development and been a member of the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

A lawyer by profession, Mr. Prentice has specialized in property rights and has focused on relocations, environmental protection suits and restricted development areas. He also served as a commissioner of the Indian Specific Claims Commission of Canada for 10 years and is recognized by his peers as an expert in land claims negotiations. Mr. Prentice travelled to South Africa twice as an expert adviser on how to protect property rights in that country's new constitution.

Mr. Prentice is married to Karen and they have three daughters.