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## ONTARIO PREMIER DALTON MCGUINTY TO ADDRESS THE OAKVILLE CHAMBER

OAKVILLE, ON – Premier Dalton McGuinty will be in Oakville on Tuesday, August 7, to address the Chamber of Commerce at a luncheon sponsored by Nycomed Canada, an international pharmaceutical company whose Canadian headquarters is located in Oakville, and the CIBC. Premier McGuinty will speak about his plan to strengthen Ontario's economy and workforce.

“We are very excited about the opportunity to host the Premier,” commented Chamber President Stephen Sparling. He went on to note, “our Membership represents a very broad and diverse range of views and we think it’s important that they have a chance to hear directly from the Premier. Politically, the Chamber is strictly non-partisan, we have hosted politicians from all parties and all levels of government. We work very hard at building strong working relationships with political leaders so we can be as effective as possible in our role as an advocate.”

The Premier’s visit is the 15th in a series of meetings the Chamber has hosted in Oakville over the past year and a half with Party Leaders, Cabinet Ministers and senior government officials. “Events with key political decision makers have ranged from small consultative focus groups that we have put together with local business leaders to hosting 750 guests at a luncheon for Prime Minister Harper,” stated Gerry Popp, the Oakville Chamber’s President Elect. “These meetings are part of our strategic plan and mission to foster a healthy economic environment in Oakville. We do everything we can to keep Oakville top of mind with political and business leaders.”

The luncheon with the Premier will be held at The Oakville Conference Centre, 2521 Wycroft Road in Oakville. The luncheon will be held from 12:00pm to 1:30pm and registration to begin at 11:30 am. Tickets are \$45.00 for Chamber Members, \$60.00 for non-chamber members, and \$340 for a table of 8. To register, please visit the Chamber Web site at [www.oakvillechamber.com](http://www.oakvillechamber.com) or contact Jad at 905-845-6613 ext. 28 or [jad@oakvillechamber.com](mailto:jad@oakvillechamber.com).

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## **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.

Over the past 18 months the Chamber has hosted events with a number of high profile government officials. Including; Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Federal Green Party Leader Elizabeth May, Federal NDP Leader Jack Layton, Ontario PC Leader John Tory, Minister Greg Sorbara, Minister Jim Prentice, Minister Michael Chong, Minister Chris Bentley, Minister Steve Peters, Minister David Caplan, Minister Marie Bountrogianni, MPP's Kevin Flynn, Ted Chudleigh, Norm Sterling, Norm Miller, Christine Elliot and Deputy Minister David Lindsay.

The Chamber has also hosted a number of prominent business leaders, notably Bill Osborne, President of the Ford Motor Company of Canada, Pierre Morrisette, founder and CEO of The Weather Network and John Suk, founder and CEO of Altana Pharma Canada now known as Nycomed Canada.

The Oakville Chamber of Commerce was the 2007 Chair's Award recipient. This award is presented annually by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce to Chambers that develop outstanding new programs.

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### **Dalton McGuinty**

Premier and President of the Council  
Minister of Research and Innovation

Dalton McGuinty is Ontario's 24th Premier. He was first elected to the Ontario legislature in 1990 in Ottawa South, and re-elected in 1995, 1999 and 2003. During his years as a backbench MPP, he served as a critic for energy, colleges and universities, native affairs and the environment.

In 1996, Dalton McGuinty was elected leader of the Ontario Liberal Party. His first election campaign as leader was in 1999, when the Liberal party received 40 per cent of the popular vote, winning 35 seats and adding nine new caucus members. In the general election of 2003, Dalton McGuinty's Liberals formed the government, taking 72 seats with 47 per cent of the vote. Premier McGuinty's campaign to build a stronger Ontario for a stronger Canada led the country's leading newsmagazine, Maclean's, to call him "Mr. Ontario."

Dalton McGuinty was born on July 19, 1955, and raised in Ottawa's Alta Vista neighbourhood. He credits his parents with teaching him the values and ethics that guide him as Premier. They passed on their commitment to education, family and community service to each of their 10 children.

Dalton's mother, Elizabeth, is a retired nurse living in Ottawa. His father, Dalton Sr., was a teacher and professor who served as the Ottawa South MPP until he passed away in 1990. Dalton shares his father's deep belief in democracy, integrity and accountability in government.

Before entering politics, Dalton McGuinty practised law in Ottawa. He has a law degree from the University of Ottawa and a science degree from McMaster University in Hamilton.

He met his wife Terri, an elementary school teacher, when they were both still high school students in Ottawa. They have been married 25 years and have four children. Carleen has completed university and is working abroad on an international aid program while the three boys — Dalton Jr., Liam and Connor — are studying at Ontario universities.