

Speaking Notes
for
Tim Murphy
Board Chair
Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority
at the
2021-2022
Annual Public Meeting
February 24, 2023

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Bonjour à tous et merci d'être parmi nous aujourd'hui.

As a Crown corporation, WDBA reports to Parliament through the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities. Under the *Financial Administration Act*, we are required to hold an annual meeting and it is our opportunity to share information while also answering questions. J'ai l'honneur de vous présenter les récentes réalisations de l'APWD et de vous informer de l'avancement du projet du Pont international Gordie-Howe.

The Gordie Howe International Bridge project is the largest and most ambitious bi-national infrastructure project along the Canada-US border. This project is a top priority for the Government of Canada. We are creating a vital link with Canada's largest trading partner, the United States of America, that will strengthen both of our economies, our communities, and our countries.

The Gordie Howe International Bridge will deliver much-needed transportation improvements and redundancy to the Windsor-Detroit trade gateway.

It will also provide improved border processing capabilities and system connectivity, connecting Highway 401 in Ontario to I-75 in Michigan.

It's only through a healthy working relationship between WDBA and our partner, Bridging North America, that we'll meet our project goals. It has been my pleasure to get to know leaders at both WDBA and Bridging North America and to see how the boards and executives continue to work well together.

The most visible sign of our collaboration is demonstrated through the bridge towers, which are now over 550 feet or 167 metres. Construction activities at the Ports of Entry in Canada and the US have moved from underground and preparatory activities to concrete pours and steel installation for buildings. Work on the Michigan Interchange advanced from the removal of existing structures to the re-opening of road bridges. We're making progress.

Further, the project team received ten distinctive recognitions during fiscal year 2021-2022, including the prestigious Envision Platinum Award for the Gordie Howe International Bridge project.

This certification is the highest possible distinction from the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure, and it highlights WDBA's commitment to deliver sustainable infrastructure – one that is socially, environmentally and economically responsible.

Cet engagement en faveur d'une infrastructure durable est concrétisé par notre plan d'avantages pour la communauté et ses deux volets : la stratégie de développement et de participation de la main-d'œuvre et la stratégie d'infrastructure du voisinage. Chaque jour, nous constatons les retombées positives envisagées par et pour les communautés limitrophes à Windsor et Détroit.

Our achievements over the past fiscal year are a direct outcome of the diligence of our staff and Board of Directors. I would like to thank our partners at Bridging North America, the State of Michigan, Michigan Department of Transportation, US Federal Highway Administration, Canada Border Services Agency, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, US Customs and Border Protection, US General Services Administration, Infrastructure Canada and the International Authority for their ongoing trust and support.

All these teams, who we consider to be partners and friends, share with us the common and exciting goal of delivering the Gordie Howe International Bridge project. This new bridge represents a future of enhanced connectivity, integration and prosperity. Il représente un avenir porteur de nouvelles idées, d'avantages et de possibilités. As we continue to press forward through our busiest years of construction yet, that future is coming into clearer focus and it is well within our grasp.

Merci