

Speaking Notes
for
Dwight Duncan
Board Chair
Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority
at the
2019-2020 Annual Public Meeting
November 20, 2020

Check against delivery

Thank you Heather.

Good morning / Bienvenue.

It is a pleasure to be with you virtually today.

The 2019-2020 fiscal year was one marked by significant activity both in the construction of the project and importantly, in the delivery of our Community Benefits Plan.

The 2019-2020 fiscal year was also marked by another important milestone. In July 2019, WDBA celebrated its fifth anniversary as the Crown corporation responsible for the delivery of the Gordie Howe International Bridge.

As a Crown corporation, we report to Parliament through the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities and we are required under the *Financial Administration Act* to hold an annual meeting.

This is important to ensure accountability and transparency. It also provides an opportunity to highlight our accomplishments.

WDBA's Board of Directors is accountable for the stewardship and oversight of the corporation as it delivers what is arguably one of the largest infrastructure projects in North America.

Over the course of the 2019-2020 fiscal year, our Board spent a considerable amount of time ensuring the organization had the necessary guidance as construction ramps up for its busiest period of work, expected to begin next year.

The varied expertise and broad range of public and private sector experience among the nine board members have proved invaluable to establishing effective oversight of the business activities and other affairs of the Crown corporation.

I am privileged to work with my fellow board members, and I thank them for their perspective and ongoing commitment to WDBA and to the project itself.

I also want to recognize the efforts of WDBA's Senior Leadership Team and all of our dedicated and competent staff members.

Over the past fiscal year, the WDBA Board has worked closely with the boards of our private-sector colleagues, Bridging North America.

I thank them for their partnership.

As you know, Canada is financing the Gordie Howe International Bridge project. I would like to also thank the Government of Canada, the State of Michigan and the International Authority for their continued support and for the essential role they play in the project.

As we move forward, the WDBA Board of Directors continues its commitment to working with our stakeholders.

Despite challenges which have impacted all of us during the pandemic, we have collectively achieved milestones and will continue to do so as we build a legacy landmark that our two nations will be proud of – the Gordie Howe International Bridge.

Thank you/Merci.