

Speaking notes for Dwight Duncan, Board Chair, Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority at the 2018-2019 Annual Public Meeting, February 27, 2020

Good morning.

It is a pleasure to be here today.

The 2018-2019 fiscal year was a pivotal one for Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority and, by extension, for its Board of Directors.

It was a year in which we achieved significant milestones.

It was a year in which we started a new relationship with our private-sector partner, Bridging North America.

And, it was the time when we put shovels in the ground and officially started construction of what is arguably one of the most important infrastructure projects anywhere in North America.

The WDBA Board of Directors is responsible for overseeing the business activities and other affairs of the Crown corporation.

There are nine members on our Board, who collectively, bring significant expertise from the private and public sectors.

I am proud to be part of a Board comprised of such committed and highly qualified individuals.

And I thank them for their counsel and for their service to Canadians. People are talking about the Gordie Howe International Bridge project.

And rightfully so.

During the past fiscal year, there was much to talk about, and much to celebrate. But there is also much more to come.

Over the coming months and years, we will be reaching new milestones.

We will start the next steps of what is known as earthworks, at the sites of the Canadian and US Ports of Entry in preparation of the construction of the border processing facilities.

Construction of the new road bridges crossing I-75 as part of our Michigan Interchange activities will continue.

And, construction of the foundations for the massive towers which will support the bridge will be well underway.

All of these construction activities are critical to ensure that we are on track to deliver all four components of the project.

We will also build on the success of the Community Benefits Plan – a series of initiatives, based on public input, that create measurable and positive results-based opportunities for the host communities.

Over the coming months and years, the project team will continue to plan for, deliver and implement those initiatives.

The WDBA Board of Directors will continue to work closely and collaboratively with the boards of our private-sector colleagues.

We are committed to ensuring that community members and our stakeholders on both sides of the border are kept informed and engaged.

And, through the WDBA staff, we will work closely with government agencies in Canada and the United States to get the bridge completed.

There is no doubt. Our work is demanding. But, we are up to the task.

As you heard the Prime Minister say in the video a few minutes ago, “This bridge will be an economic boom”.

We are single-minded in our purpose – to build a legacy landmark that connects nations, economies and cultures.

And one which will be an economic boom to Windsor and Detroit, Ontario and Michigan, Canada and the United States.

Thank you.