

CREATECH365 celebration

September 21, 2017

(AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY)

Good evening everyone. It is great to be here with all of you. I would like to begin by recognizing and welcoming some new friends to our community:

- Charlotte Burke, Vice President, Small and Mid – Market Business and Partners, Microsoft Canada;
- Marinella Ermacora, President of the Createch Group;
- Trevor Moore, Partner Technology Strategist, Dynamics NAV, Microsoft Canada;

We also have with us the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of research, Innovation and Science and the Minister of Transportation and the MPP for Kitchener Centre, Daiene Vernile.

It is exciting and heartening to be here to acknowledge and celebrate Createch365, the partnerships that made it happen, the people behind it and its significant to our community.

There is a high level of collaboration going on across the community. There are a lot of good people working together to create opportunity, to find good projects and make them work.

This project is a prime example. It would not have come together without good people and their organizations intentionally bringing it to pass through hard work and commitment.

I would like to acknowledge Mario Chabot of the Createch Group, Gerry Bugyra of Createch365, Tom Vair formerly of the SSMIC and now of City Hall, Don MacLennan of the SSMIC representing the team at the IC, along with Colin Kirkwood and John Coccimiglio of the College.

It is also important to acknowledge our partners at the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund and FedNor and City Councillor for its support through our Economic Development Fund.

Createch365 began operating in Sault Ste. Marie in March of this year and already employs 20 full time staff.

It is a dynamic and forward looking company that is and will continue to be a leader in its field. The service, support and software development centre here in Sault Ste. Marie has the potential to introduce Dynamics 365 across Canada and we believe, with the support of the College, it will.

I want to commend the College and its leadership for having the foresight to enter into a memorandum of understanding with Createch365 and for putting Dynamics365 into its curriculum. It is vital that our educational system and our post - secondary institutions help build the skillsets of not only today's economy but tomorrows economy.

While we work to fill the jobs of the present we have to work towards developing the skills for the jobs of the future.

Sault Ste. Marie has always been a community of makers. We have a long history of making important things here, the fundamentals of a traditional economy: such as paper, steel, power.

That traditional economy, however, has been changing for a while and now more rapidly than ever. We as a community have to change with it and this project is proof positive that we can.

The new economy still needs makers, just of more different sorts. With this project, its collaboration, partnerships and educational aspirations, Sault Ste. Marie has proven it can be and is still a community of makers.

This is just the beginning. This is just the beginning for Createch365 and it is just the beginning for us. We will work hard and together with our partners in government, in education and in the private sector to continue to create this kind of opportunity for each other and for our community at large.

This is an exciting time and I thank you for allowing me to be a part of it.