



## MEDIA RELEASE

# BEDC congratulates Regional Council on giving Halton's McMaster Campus the 'green light'

**Burlington, January 21, 2009** – The Burlington Economic Development Corporation (BEDC) congratulates the Region of Halton and Burlington Councils with their foresight and leadership in their decision to support McMaster University. The funding is now in place to establish the DeGroote Centre of Advanced Management Studies and a Family Medical Health Centre, as the Region approved the remaining \$5 million in funding at Regional Council on Wednesday. By providing the funding McMaster seeks to advance these projects, the City and the Region will lay the foundation for a highly strategic partnership that will enhance our community's quality of life and our regional economy for generations to come.

"We applaud Halton Region's continuing commitment to enhance its business environment. Bringing an additional higher-education resource to the Region will drive innovation and supports the growth and productivity of our economy," says James Peters, Chair of the BEDC Board of Directors. "The City of Burlington and the Halton Region are investing in the future of our community, and this is critical to sustaining a robust workforce, attracting and retaining top employers, and assisting new business to attract capital."

The University plans to start construction this spring on the first part of its project, a \$28-million, 93,000-square foot DeGroote Centre for Advanced Management, which will host 800 MBA and executive education students. The combined \$10 million from Burlington and Halton is going toward the construction of this facility on the 4.5-acre parcel of land on South Service Road just east of Walker's Line, and the Family Medical Health Centre in downtown Burlington.

“Talent is the primary factor influencing a firm’s decision to stay or locate in a municipality.” Mark Gregory, Vice-Chair of the BEDC Board of Directors stated. “The ‘talent equation’ for Burlington cannot be understated. The battle for the brightest minds is becoming intense across Canada and the Region. It is this talent that fuels successful companies and communities. An MBA school of the calibre of DeGroot presents Burlington with a potentially powerful competitive edge. Highly skilled managers, workers and the best employers identify with ‘smart’ cities that offer impressive quality-of-life amenities and leading university programs”.

BEDC and the business community have strongly supported the development of the McMaster projects. Now that the funding requests are approved and the project has been given a ‘green light’, BEDC thanks Mayor Jackson, City Council and Chair Carr for their leadership on making this opportunity a reality, one that will pay significant community dividends in the years to come.

Burlington Economic Development Corporation (BEDC) is a non-profit organization established in 1994 to work with the public and private sectors to promote economic growth in Burlington. In partnership with the City of Burlington, BEDC works closely with the real estate and development communities as they strive to satisfy the needs of prospects interested in investing and locating in Burlington.

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