



INTERNATIONAL  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COUNCIL

*The Power of Knowledge and Leadership*

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## *Media Release*

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### **International Economic Development Council and Economic Developers Council of Ontario Sign Professional Certification Memorandum of Understanding**

**WASHINGTON, DC (October 10, 2013)** - A Memorandum of Understanding was signed at the end of the International Economic Development Council's (IEDC) Annual Conference in Philadelphia, PA, between IEDC and the Economic Developers Council of Ontario (EDCO). The MOU commits both parties to developing and delivering training programs for Canadian economic development professionals wishing to become IEDC Certified Economic Developers (CEcDs).

After the agreement was signed, Heather Lalonde, Chief Executive Officer of EDCO, said "We are so pleased to be able to offer the CEcD program to our members and all Canadian economic development professionals wishing to achieve the international standard in their field."

Jennifer Patterson, the Chair of EDCO, is extremely pleased to offer the CEcD option to her membership: "We have heard from our members for a number of years now that they are looking to expand their opportunities for professional education, and want to ensure that they have access to international best practices in an increasingly globalized economy."

Paul Krutko, IEDC's Chair added that "We are really pleased that we are able to partner with EDCO on education and certification. Both of our organizations share the common goals of unifying, standardizing, and professionalizing the practice of economic development through high quality education and capacity building programs that offer professionals an internationally recognized curriculum to prepare them for the CEcD designation."

Jeffrey Finkle, CEO of the International Economic Development Council, added that "This is an important step in our continuing process to reach out to a globalizing economic development profession. We are committed to refining our course materials and examination to be relevant to Canadian practitioners without watering down the high standards expected of all our CEcDs."

Mississauga, Ontario Mayor Hazel McCallion, long viewed as a champion of local economic development, attended the signing ceremony. Mayor McCallion remarked that "IEDC has been a great partner for

Mississauga over the years, with our staff regularly attending conferences and training, and successfully competing in their awards competitions. It's just great that IEDC certification is now available to Canadians."

### **About The Economic Developers Council of Ontario**

The Economic Developers Council of Ontario (EDCO) was established in 1957 as the Ontario Industrial Developers Council. Since then it has grown to be Canada's largest provincial economic development membership organization with 685 active members.

### **About the International Economic Development Council**

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 4,000 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind. Economic developers promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities, by creating, retaining and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth and provide a stable tax base. From public to private, rural to urban, and local to international, IEDC's members are engaged in the full range of economic development experience. Given the breadth of economic development work, our members are employed in a wide variety of settings including local, state, provincial and federal governments, public private partnerships, chambers of commerce, universities and a variety of other institutions. When we succeed, our members create high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities, and improve the quality of life in their regions.

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