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## MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 16, 2018

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# 10th Annual Leeds Grenville Economic Development Summit a huge success, breaking previous attendance records

**KEMPTVILLE** –The annual Leeds Grenville Economic Development Summit is setting a new record while celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> year as a business-building forum.

A total of 236 business leaders, not-for-profit organizations and government representatives from throughout the area and neighbouring counties filled the North Grenville Municipal Centre for the special anniversary summit. This year breaks all previous attendance records with this being the third year the event has sold out.

“For the past 10 years, the Economic Development Summit has provided opportunities for collaboration between businesses and building networks with each other, ensuring Leeds Grenville continues to be an economic leader in Eastern Ontario,” said Warden Robin Jones.

Highly anticipated keynote addresses included “LeBoat Brings the World to the Rideau Canal,” presented by Cheryl Brown, Managing Director of LeBoat; and “It’s Just the Beginning,” by Bruce Linton, Founder, Chairman and Co-CEO of Canopy Growth Corporation.

The final keynote address of the day came from BDC Vice President, Research and Chief Economist Pierre Cl  roux, who presented “Economic Outlook: Challenges and Opportunities Ahead for Canadian Businesses.”

The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and MPP for Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes, presented an overview of the Ontario government’s Fall Economic Statement.

“The high attendance at the Summit is a reflection of the strong business community working together, welcoming new investment and looking at being the best that they can be,” said Ann Weir, Manager of the Leeds Grenville Economic Development Office.

“Today’s 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration was a great success,” said Ms. Weir, who outlined key regional highlights from the past decade.

where **lifestyle**  
**grows good business**

synonyme de **qualit   de vie**  
et de **reussite en affaires**

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Another top presenter was Stephen Sliwa, Director of Education for the Upper Canada District School Board. Mr. Sliwa, a 2017 graduate and a current student discussed "Shaping Our Future Workforce Together."

A video tribute thanking the late Gord Brown, MP of Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes, was screened at the opening of the summit. Mr. Brown, who passed away suddenly this past May, was the catalyst behind launching the summit back in 2009. He co-hosted the event each year and, prior to his death, provided input for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

Updates and developments were provided by Frank McAuley, of the Port of Johnstown Management Committee, Natalie Kinloch, Chief Financial Operating Officer with the Federal Bridge Corporation and Tim Sturick, Deputy Executive Director of the Thousand Islands Bridge Authority.

The event is hosted by the Leeds Grenville Economic Development Office, in partnership with MPP Steve Clark, along with the 1000 Islands, Valley Heartland and Grenville Community Futures Development Corporations and the 1000 Islands Region Workforce Development Board.

The Bill Thake Memorial Award for Economic Development Leadership was presented to Doug Bond, from the Township of Rideau Lakes. Mr. Bond is known for developing a go-to Heritage Map of his municipality and for helping develop trails and tours. Fellow nominee Geraldine Taylor, from North Grenville, was also honoured for being a community builder contributing to the strength and vitality of the Leeds Grenville economy.

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*A Thake Award companion media release and nominee biographies page are included in the media package.*

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