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## **Ontario's New Minister for Small Business and Entrepreneurship to Open Canada's Largest Lean Manufacturing Conference**

*Hon. Harinder Takhar to introduce World leader in manufacturing thinking to the sold out South-Western Ontario Conference.*

**KITCHENER June 9, 2006:** The Honorable Harinder Takhar – newly appointed Minister of Small Business and Entrepreneurship, will introduce Dr. James P. Womack, founder and Chairman of the Lean Enterprise Institute, to over 600 manufacturing practitioners from across Canada and the US in Kitchener on Tuesday June 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am.

“We are very pleased Minister Takhar will present the World leader in Lean Thinking to the over 600 manufacturing practitioners attending the Association for Manufacturing Excellence’s (AME) second Annual Canadian Lean Conference,” stated conference Co-Chair David Hogg, who is president of the 14-company South-western Ontario based High Performance Manufacturing Consortium.

Hogg’s Co-Chair and Conference Program Chair Brian Bush advised “The Minister’s presence provides needed positive support to Small Businesses anxiously looking for approaches and practices that can reduce waste throughout their businesses as they add competitive value for their customers.”

The 4-day event is a knowledge-exchange conference organized by manufacturing volunteers for manufacturing practitioners. The 18 conference organizers are drawn from practitioners from Calgary to Newfoundland follow a simple format of limiting Best Practices presentations only to those who are practitioners with results – both good and bad – to share. Added Bush, “Small manufacturers are beginning to realize that no

company can live long enough to make all the mistakes themselves – and this thinking encourages exceptional sharing.” Some 12 consortiums will be exchanging their best practices at the Tuesday night reception for Consortium leaders.

Organizers stated that for small manufacturers, the opportunity of hearing Dr. Womack is inspirational as so many have begun to apply his thinking to combat the competitive threats coming from China and India. Hogg points out that what makes this conference exciting is that many attendees belong to Lean Manufacturing Consortiums from coast to coast in Canada and are being joined by colleagues from Jacksonville, Portland and Melbourne, Australia – there is a sense that “we are really all in this together”.

The Minister will leave to travel to Guelph to see first-hand what is in store for many manufacturers at CGL Manufacturing – a company so committed to Lean thinking that they are a certified supplier to GE and GM locomotive groups, as well as the Toyota materials handling group in both Canada and the United States. This Canadian company also holds “Global Vendor” status for Volvo Construction Equipment and is a selected Komatsu International Midori-Kai certified premier supplier.

CGL are openly sharing their approaches to conference attendees as one of 17 Tour Sites of excellence where practitioners can visit and talk directly to the practitioners who put CGL's innovative processes in place.

The 2006 AME Canadian Lean Conference will be held at the Delta Kitchener Hotel in Kitchener, Ontario and will run from June 12 – 15, 2006. For more information visit [www.measureupforsuccess.com](http://www.measureupforsuccess.com)

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