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To: Economic Development Committee

From: Economic Development Committee

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Attached, please find a copy of a report I have developed regarding production of the new Bombardier CRJ-700 and BRJ-X commercial aircraft. Bombardier is the world's third largest civil aviation producer. The new BRJ-X will likely be the next replacement for the world's fleet of older, similar aircraft such as the DC-9 and Boeing 737.

While the company's production headquarters are in Montreal, research indicates that this facility currently has a five-year backlog of orders for Challenger business jets and other CRJ aircraft. They will be looking for a new facility to produce these new aircraft.

Our goal should be to develop an initiative aimed at understanding Bombardier's needs regarding these new aircraft and ensuring that they select Toronto as the location for production of a major portion of the CRJ-700 and BRJ-X aircraft.

This presents Toronto with a unique and viable opportunity to bring a top notch, high tech industry to our City for the production of cutting edge aircraft and technology while securing a large number of skilled, long-term jobs for the year 2000 and beyond.

As Toronto moves into the next millennium, we will need to identify and encourage these types of businesses to come to Toronto and set up shop. This is our opportunity to be proactive in an area that lends itself to major expansion of a high tech industry that has, in my opinion, an unlimited future. All the ingredients are already in place here in the largest, most affluent, and best city in the country, Toronto!

I would appreciate your taking the time to review this report. I ask for your comments, your suggestions and especially, your support.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Walker
Councillor – Ward 22