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LEADING ECONOMISTS TAKE THE STAGE AT ONTARIO ECONOMIC SUMMIT

Toronto: Top economists will headline the upcoming 5th annual Ontario Economic Summit (OES), an initiative of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, as the challenges facing the economy in Ontario and around the world are placed front and centre.

Robert Shiller, dubbed “a rock star among economists” and the co-creator of the Case-Shiller index of U.S. housing prices, will deliver the economic keynote address at the upcoming summit in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Professor Shiller is the Arthur M. Okun Professor of Economics at Yale University and author of the international bestseller “Irrational Exuberance” and the newly released “The Subprime Solution”. His economic keynote will provide a clear-eyed assessment of the credit crunch and its aftermath in the United States and implications for our own economy.

“Robert Shiller is widely viewed as being one of the few to see the real estate crisis coming,” explains Len Crispino, President & CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC). “Considering the Ontario economy is so intertwined with that of our neighbours to the south, I’m very interested to hear what he has to say about what lies ahead.”

Don Drummond, Chief Economist at TD Bank Financial Group, will provide a detailed assessment of the Ontario economy. And for an international viewpoint, Andrew Burns, Lead Economist with the Development Prospects Group of the World Bank will outline the opportunities in China, India, and other emerging markets.

Small and large business owners will bring their “real life” experiences to the discussion, including Craig Muhlhauser, President and CEO of Celestica Inc., whose experience in turning the technology giant around will be inspirational for delegates as they work together to chart a new course for Ontario.

Other speakers and participants include:

- Premier Dalton McGuinty;
- Premier Jean Charest;
- John Tory, Leader of the PC Party of Ontario;
- Tom Jenkins, Executive Chairman and Chief Strategy Officer, Open Text Corporation
- Andrea Mandel-Campbell, Author of “Why Mexicans Don’t Drink Molson”;
- Denis Dyack, Founder and President, Silicon Knights;
- Stephen Lewis, Advocate on Social Justice;
- Thomas Homer-Dixon, Global Affairs Expert and bestselling author of “The Upside of Down” and “The Ingenuity Gap”; and,
- Alexandra Dagg, Executive Vice-President and Canadian Co-Director, UNITE HERE.

The Ontario Economic Summit brings together leaders from the business, government, labour, education and non-profit sectors from September 30, 2008 until October 2nd. Discussions will take place about ways to reinvent Ontario's workforce development, rethink trade markets, and renew our competitive advantage. In addition, the OES will examine the critical issue of energy conservation and innovation.

For more information, visit www.occ-oes.com.

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