

Presentation to the Clean Environment Commission
April 11 2007

Mayor Chris Goertzen – City of Steinbach

In the last six years Steinbach and the south-east region have had tremendous growth.

The growth in the region is by far the highest in Manitoba and the growth in the City of Steinbach has placed it as one of the fastest growing urban centres in Canada. The change in population in Steinbach between the 2001 census and the census taken in May 2006 showed a staggering 19.9 % increase in population which translates into 1839 additional residents. The population in our neighbouring municipalities also showed remarkable growth with Hanover increasing its population by over 1000 people while the Rural Municipality of Labroquerie increasing by 765 residents. This astounding number translates into a 26.4 % increase in population.

The economy is strong in the Steinbach region. The diversity of our regional economy is what makes it strong. Our economy is based on three main pillars that have sustained our impressive growth numbers. They are manufacturing, the service industry and agriculture. All three of these pillars of our economy are diversified thus creating an even stronger and more resilient economy. When one or more segments are on the decline, we have been fortunate to have others that seem to be on the upward trend.

The Hog Industry is a large part of the agricultural base in the south-east region. The effect of the industry is much more far reaching than boar barns, farrowing barns and finishing barns. It goes much farther than the hundreds upon hundreds of people that find well paying jobs in these places of employment. The reach is much farther than the high yielding crops that many area farmers reap because they are able to effectively manage their fields with nutrients from the industry.

The Hog Industry has had, and we hope will continue to have, a positive effect on the construction service industry in our region. We have seen the benefits spread to the construction workers and companies who are able to secure the contracts for the hog housing facilities as well as many maintenance facilities. We have seen the lumber yards and farm equipment dealers realise large increases in their sales, all of these positive effects

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enable these trade companies to employ more people thus growing our regional economy.

The transportation industry also has seen tremendous growth in our region. Virtually every hog that is produced in our region must be transported out of the eastern half of the province to get processed. This has increased the demand for truck drivers and workers to maintain and clean the many transport vehicles.

The hog industry also provides many management and clerical job opportunities for the regions population. Hytek, Puritone, Landmark Feeds and Pro Vista Agriculture all have there corporate or head offices in the south-east. The industry does not only provide direct "hands on" careers for our population but gives the opportunity for people to be involved in the administration of the industry. This diversity is welcome here in the south-east because we know that this is what makes our economy stronger.

The City of Steinbach is concerned about a clean and sustainable environment. This is why, in 2004, we joined the Seine-Rat River Conservation District. Through this organization we have seen great cooperation between the member municipalities and industries in the south – east. The hog industry is one of those industries. We have seen consistent participation and encouragement to improve programs and practices that will prove to be sustainable for the environment. The hog industry leaders that we have in the south east have been a great example of Good Corporate Citizens. They know that if the environment is sustained and improved, there industry will prosper and their actions have consistently proven this.

The Economy of south eastern Manitoba has been greatly improved by the hog industry. These effects have been far reaching, creating an environment that has produced a large influx of immigrants from outside of our region, outside of Manitoba and outside of Canada. Steinbach has seen a new ballooning Pilipino population many of which are finding good employment in the hog industry. The trucking industry which is also benefiting from the industry is finding new employees in the United Kingdom who are in turn making Steinbach and the region their home.

We have been fortunate in the Steinbach region. The agricultural pillar of our economy is strong. We look forward to a continued sustainable growth of the hog industry and the many positive economic aspects it will bring to our region.