



## Minutes

### MedTech Task Force

### The Corporation of the City of Brampton

**Thursday, November 23, 2023**

- Members Present:
- Deputy Mayor H. Singh (Chair)
  - Dr. Mohamed Lachemi, President, Toronto Metropolitan University (Vice-Chair)
  - Regional Councillor G. Toor - Wards 9 and 10
  - Dave Casimiro, Managing Director, NorthWest Healthcare Properties REIT
  - Vito Ciciretto, President and CEO, Dynacare
  - Sheri Dodd, President, Medtronic Canada
  - Jason Field, President and CEO, Life Sciences Ontario
  - Ken Spears, General Manager / Vice-President, Boston Scientific Canada
  - Amy Swanson, Vice-President, MedTech Canada
  - Andreas Wegner, General Manager, Taro Pharmaceuticals
  - Mahes Wickramasinghe, EVP & Chief Administrative Officer, Rogers
  - David Wyatt, Senior Vice President, Morguard Investments Ltd
  - David Moores, Vice president, Development Engineering, Orlando Corporation
  - Deepak Sharma, William Osler Health Systems (Alternate)
  - Istvan Imre, Algoma University (Alternate)
  - Carol Altilia, Provost and Vice President Academic, Sheridan College (Alternate)
- Members Absent:
- Regional Councillor M. Palleschi - Wards 2 and 6 (other municipal business)
  - Regional Councillor R. Santos - Wards 1 and 5
  - Tony Chahine, CEO, Myant Inc.
  - Anton Katipunan, Development with RioCan, RioCan
  - Brian Leahy, Director, External Community Relations, Algoma University
  - Dr. Frank Martino, President & CEO, William Osler Health

Systems

Dr. Dante Morra, Chief of Medical Staff, Trillium Health Partners

Dr. Janet Morrison, President & Vice Chancellor, Sheridan

College

Peter Nikolakakos, Executive Vice President, Development &

Planning, First Gulf

Carl Rodrigues, CEO, SOTI

Darren Steedman, Vice-President, DG Group

Jay Stevens, CEO, The Stevens Company

Blair Wolk, President, Orlando Corporation

Staff Present:

Clare Barnett, Director, Economic Development

Paul Aldunate, Expeditor, Office of the CAO

Peter Fay, City Clerk

Tammi Jackson, Legislative Coordinator

Richa Ajitkumar, Legislative Coordinator

Martin Bohl, Sector Manager, Health & Life Sciences

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1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:11 p.m. and adjourned at 5:54 p.m.  
Introductory and welcoming remarks were provided by Chair Singh.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

The following motion was considered.

**MTTF006-2023**

That the agenda for the MedTech Task Force Committee Meeting of November 23, 2023, be approved as published and circulated.

Carried

3. **Declarations of Interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act**

Nil

4. **Previous Minutes**

The minutes were draft and have not been considered by Committee of Council or Council and were listed for Committee's information.

5. **Presentations / Delegations**

5.1 Presentation by Stakeholders:

Amy Swanson, VP Ontario, MedTech Canada, provided a brief overview of the company that included the following:

- A national association that is leading the effort to develop and advance Canada's innovative medical technology industry.
- Represents over 100 member companies in Canada involved in the research, supply and manufacturing of medical technologies (ranging from Canadian-owned to multinationals).

- Work closely with the federal and provincial-territorial governments, health professionals, patients, and other stakeholders.
- The Canadian medical technology market is valued at approximately \$7.8 billion, making it the 8th largest worldwide.
- Canada exports approximately \$3.1 billion of medical technology and imports \$8.6 billion.
- The Canadian MedTech industry employs more than 35,000 Canadians with expertise across multiple disciplines.
- More than 1,500 MedTech companies operate in Canada.
- Advised the 2024 MedTech Conference will be held on October 15-17, 2024, at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. The conference will be three full days of in-person educational, networking, showcasing and business development opportunities.
- Companies interested in participating in the Canadian pavilion at the conference are encouraged to reach out.
- Three opportunities for engagement: Exhibition space in Canadian Pavilion, Sponsorship of event's (i.e. Global Reception) Safari Showcase.

Caroline Ruggier, Director of International Business, AdvaMed, provided a brief overview of the company that included the following:

- AdvaMed is MedTech Canada's U.S. Counterpart.
- It's the world's largest medical technology trade organization located in Washington, D.C.
- Includes 470 member companies that range from the largest to smallest MedTech innovators and producers.
- Represent various MedTech sectors, such as, diagnostic, digital health, cardiovascular, orthopedics, ophthalmic, surgical tools, wound management, dental health, etc.
- Focus areas include SME support, trade, regulation, policy, market access, educational events.
- Will be attending the 2024 MedTech Conference being held in Toronto on October 15-17, 2024.

- Investor forum, over 200 investors attend. Attractive programming designed to assist smaller companies get in front of potential key partners.

Dr. Ali Asghar Houshmand, President, Rowan University, provided a brief overview of the company that included the following:

- In 2013, Rowan became one of only two universities in the nation to offer both M.D. and D.O. medical degree programs.
- Rowan University co-founded Cooper Medical School of Rowan University with Cooper University Health Care,
- With this establishment it welcomed the medical school's inaugural class in the Summer of 2012.
- In 2021, Rowan University partnered with Virtua Health, establishing the Virtua Health College of Medicine & Life Sciences at Rowan University (VHC).
- Advised that establishing a Medical School in Brampton will be monumental and brings forward opportunities for entrepreneurs.

Carol Altilia, Provost and Vice President Academic, provided a brief overview and history of Sheridan College, which included the following:

- Sheridan College has three campus locations: Davis Campus (Brampton), Hazel McCallion (Mississauga) and Trafalgar Campus (Oakville).
- Sheridan College expands across 5 facilities:
  - Animation, Arts & Design
  - Applied Health & Community Studies
  - Applied Science & Technology
  - Humanities & Social Sciences
  - Pilon School of Business
- Sheridan offers over 68 programs (degree, diploma and certificate) with over 9,000 students enrolled.
- Offers 1500 placements every year within the community.
- Students are involved in groundbreaking research. 3 of the 5 research programs at Sheridan include: the centre for mobile innovation, centre of elder research, centre for advanced manufacturing and design technology.

- Sheridan Technologies at CAMDT include de-risking technology exploration, robotics, metal 3D Polymer 3D printing, electronic prototyping, simulation and modelling, 3D scanning, laser cutting, machine vision.
- Outlined Industry and Community Partners.

Sonia Dupte, Vice President Institutional Advancement & External Relations, Sheridan College, invited all MedTech partners to connect with Sheridan contacts for potential opportunities. In addition, Ms. Dupte extended an invitation to the Task Force for the next MedTech meeting to be held at the Sheridan campus.

Scott Rasmussen, Vice President of Leasing & Business Development, McMaster Innovation Park, provided a brief overview of the company that included the following:

- The Wet Lab Coalition is a growing group of organizations and individuals committed to tackling Ontario's lack of wet lab space to enable accelerated growth of the province's life science industry.
- It is made up of 30+ organizations including economic development, commercial real estate, private and non-governmental organizations.
- Outlined that a vibrant life science ecosystem requires lab inventory for all company phases: Start-up, Set-up, Scale-up and Commercial. Currently, Ontario's most acute need is at the step-up & scale-up stage.
- Advised a sufficient inventory of wet labs "graduation" space is critical to growing Ontario's life sciences.
- Outlined there is zero percent supply for companies requiring space. Companies are challenged with the possibility of moving their company to accommodate the required wet lab space required for growth.
- Advised that 20% of the demand will be addressed in two years and hundreds of companies are a flight risk.
- Currently there are proposed projects, but the earliest occupancy is 2026-2027, If the projects proceed past the idea stage.
- Advised it's important to keep home grown companies here and expand their growth.

Bethany Moir, Director, Stakeholder Relations and Strategic Projects. Toronto Global, provided the key take always that were learned from other jurisdictions:

- The Government has a role to play in 'priming the pump.'

- A Public-private partnership created to manage tools and programs.
- No one-size-fits-all: multi-pronged & market responsive approach is best.
- A long-term (10+ year) approach.

Sabrina Fiorellino, JD, Chief Executive Officer, Director, Co-Founder of Fero, and Alex Scopacasa, Chief Operating Officer, Co-Founder of Fero, provided a brief overview of the company that included the following:

- Companies slogan is "solutions without limits".
- Advised they feel they have we have a solution to the wet lab issue in Ontario.
- Fero operates a 300,000 sqft production facility located in Stoney Creek, Ontario with 63 employees.
- The facility is fully certified with CSA A277, CSA A660, CWB W47.1 and QA/QC Management Program
- Modules are constructed through three-dimensional assembly with 95-98% construction is complete in factory and deliver to site to install.
- Building is constructed off-site, in controlled environment, using the same materials and designing to the same codes and standards as conventionally built facilities – in about a third of the time. Buildings are produced in “modules”.
- Markets currently servicing: emergency management, wet laboratories, remote medical clinics and hospital facilities.

Dr. Joanne Curry, Vice-President, External Relations, Simon Fraser University, was a guest observer and provided some remarks during the meeting.

The following motion was considered.

### **MTTF007-2023**

That the following presentations to the MedTech Task Force Committee Meeting of November 23 2023, re:

1. **MedTech Canada**
2. **Rowan University**
3. **Sheridan College**

4. **Understanding Ontario's Wet Lab Challenge**

5. **Fero International**

be received.

Carried

6. **Other / New Business / Information Items**

Nil

7. **Member Questions / Roundtable**

7.1 Round Table Discussions re:

The Task Force held a roundtable discussion around the following questions:

1. How can the businesses in Brampton support our investment attraction efforts to help build the brand of the City as a MedTech leader (with focus on 2024 MedTech Conference in Toronto)?
2. How can we help Start Ups (with focus on Brampton Venture Zone firms) in the sector grow in tandem with the new medical school and growth of the hospital?
3. What are the opportunities for Brampton in response to Ontario's Wet Lab Challenge?

Task force members discussed the following items:

- Increase investments to Brampton.
- Toronto Metropolitan University's first cohort in 2025.
- The need to establish relationships at the local level.
- Northwest Health care – Real Estate Solution. Expressed interest with partnering with institutional and academic partners. There are opportunity for some of the startups in Brampton.
- The need to attract individuals with academic licenses that will work along with students.
- Expressed the need for Brampton to edge itself into provincial and federal level strategies.



The following motion was considered.

**MTTF008-2023**

1. That that members of the Task Force assign the lead to the Economic Development staff at the City of Brampton to form a sub-committee with interested members to support our investment attraction plan and brand the City as a MedTech leader at the October 2024 MedTech Conference in Toronto and to report back to the Task Force with updates of the work at the next Task Force meeting; and,
2. That the members of the Task Force assign the lead to the Economic Development staff at the City of Brampton to work closely with the Brampton Venture Zone and interested members of the Task Force to develop ways to integrate the work of the Innovation District and the MedTech start-ups with the strategies of the new hospital, the new medical school, and with existing firms in Brampton, and to report back on progress at the next Task Force meeting; and,
3. That the members of the Task Force direct the Economic Development staff at the City of Brampton to develop a request for proposal for a feasibility study in establishing a wet lab in Brampton, with participation from interested Task Force members, and to report back at the next Task Force meeting.

Carried

**8. Correspondence**

Nil

**9. Question Period**

Usha Srinivasan, Founding Director, Brampton Venture Zone, asked a question regarding the lack of space available for start-up business opportunities.

**10. Public Question Period**

The public was given the opportunity to submit questions in person or via e-mail to the City Clerk's Office regarding any decisions made at this meeting. P. Fay, City Clerk, confirmed there were no questions from the public.

**11. Adjournment**

Closing Remarks by Deputy Mayor Singh and Dr. Mohamed Lachemi, President of Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU).

The following motion was considered.

**MTTF009-2023**

That the MedTech Task Force Committee do now adjourn.

Carried

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Deputy Mayor H. Singh (Chair)

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Mohamed Lachemi (Vice-Chair)