



## **MAYOR PATRICK BROWN**

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September 30<sup>th</sup> 2020

On behalf of the City of Brampton, we would like to thank the Nigerian High Commission, the Lagos State Government, His Imperial Majesty Arole Oduduwa'Olofin Adimula, Ooni Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi Ojaja II, Ooni of Ife, the Nigerian Canadian Trade & Investment Group, Idris Orouguh Consulting, UpSurgence, Pertinence Limited, South Energyx Nigeria Limited, and Hope4Sure Foundation for their support in the development of the 2020 Brampton meets Nigeria 2020 Nigeria Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Cultural Engagement Tour. We greatly value the opportunities created by the tour that explored potential cultural, technological and trade relations between our City, the Country of Nigeria and the State of Lagos.

The City of Brampton shares a unique bond with Nigeria in its greatest resource, its people. The Nigerian Canadian diaspora in our city has played a vital role in the growth and development of our community, opening doors to new and exciting opportunities. Nigeria is Canada's 31st ranked trading partner, 0.1% of FDI stock in 2017 and is the top country for Immigrants from Africa for Brampton, giving the city the second largest group of Nigerians in Canada and making it a seamless transition for many new Nigerian Canadians.

We are excited about the interest from Canadian and Nigerian investors, as well as entrepreneurs who wish to expand their operations, pursuing trade and investment between businesses in Lagos State and The City of Brampton. We look forward to continued discussions around the development of an agreement with Lagos State, centred on our shared priorities and goals of advancing the

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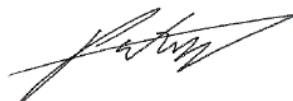
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development in the following sectors: cybersecurity, health & life sciences, agriculture, arts, and tourism.

In addition to this opportunity, we have received significant positive response from High Commissions across Africa and the Caribbean, expressing interest in furthering ties and opportunities for trade and development. Brampton is home to a Black African & Caribbean Diaspora of 80,000 residents as of last census 4 years ago, and has continued to grow dramatically. The potential of leveraging our people to people ties will not only support the continued strong growth of our diverse mosaic of cultures in the City of Brampton, but will also lead to more equitable international trade and access to quality jobs in the City of Brampton.

Our Director of Economic Development for the City of Brampton, Clare Barnett, will be leading this initiative for the City. Clare is a highly accomplished professional in the economic development sector, with experience around the world in developing foreign trade offices for the Province of Ontario. Clare's experience will prove instrumental to the development of this agreement.

The 2020 Brampton Meets Nigeria FDI tour has proven to be an important first step in strengthening and growing ties between Brampton and Lagos State. Our shared work on increasing business ties with our constituents will show strong leadership on the international stage.



Mayor, Patrick Brown