



**Hon. Tim Uppal, MP**  
Edmonton-Sherwood Park  
Minister of State for Democratic Reform

# Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 10, 2011

## **Local Minister Tim Uppal holds Roundtable on Temporary Foreign Worker Program**

**SHERWOOD PARK, AB** – Today, Tim Uppal, Federal Minister of State for Democratic Reform and local Member of Parliament for Edmonton–Sherwood Park, held a roundtable at the Sherwood Park Chamber of Commerce with local small businesses and interested residents on the federal government’s Temporary Foreign Worker Program.

“Listening to the input from local constituents, businesses and stakeholders is always a very valuable exercise,” said Minister Uppal. “I look forward to taking the comments and suggestions that I heard today back to Ottawa to ensure that the program continues to support economic growth, while at the same time protects jobs for Canadians.”

The Temporary Foreign Worker Program allows for the hiring of foreign workers for temporary employment to support economic growth in Canada. Employers must first demonstrate that they are unable to find suitable Canadians to fill the jobs, and that the entry of these workers will not have a negative impact on the Canadian labour market.

“The meeting was very informative and I believe our concerns were well received by Minister Uppal,” said Brent Smith, Managing Partner of Sherwood Park Dairy Queens.

Representatives from over 10 different local business sectors attended the roundtable, along with the Sherwood Park and Fort Saskatchewan Chambers of Commerce and local constituents. The discussion was extensive and full of suggestions on ways to improve the Temporary Foreign Worker hiring process.

Todd Banks, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce noted after the meeting that, “it is clearly apparent that the TFW program needs to be revisited and changes made to reflect business and industries needs in the current economy here in Alberta, as well as, their needs going forward for the next 2 - 3 years. Minister Uppal was very receptive to our concerns and will take our message to Ottawa that this region of Canada not only requires an expanded TFW program but there is also the need and desire to ensure the timely processing of applications to accommodate an ever changing economy.”

- 30 -

**For further information, please contact:**

**Suzanne Shapansky**  
**Office of the Honourable Tim Uppal**  
**Minister of State for Democratic Reform**  
**Member of Parliament for Edmonton-Sherwood Park**  
**780-467-494**

**Ottawa Office:**  
Room 133, East Block  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Tel: 613-995-3611

**Constituency Office:**  
141 Seneca Rd.  
Sherwood Park, AB  
Tel: 780-467-4944  
tim.uppal@parl.gc.ca