

SIAL Canada Trade Show
Deputy Mayor Thompson
April 30 2019

Good afternoon.

I am pleased to be here as a part of
Canada's largest food and beverage
tradeshow.

For those of you in Toronto for the first
time, Welcome! With a population of 2.8
million people, 7,500 restaurants and
cultures from all around the world, we
truly have something for everybody. So
please, explore and enjoy.

The food cluster is one of Toronto's most important sectors bringing in annual sales of over \$17 Billion with an annual growth rate of 4-5% over the last 5 years. So it is fitting and important that we are here today making connections and working towards an even stronger food sector.

In Ontario, more than 75% of all food processors are small to medium in size.

That is why at the City of Toronto we are focused on providing training and resources to our start-ups and SMEs.

I am proud to say, Toronto's vibrant and diverse communities are reflected in its food industry. 25% of all food processing plants in the City make specialty products for our many ethnic cuisines.

The demand for specialty foods is growing twice as fast as the industry average and our start-ups are leading the way to ensure this growth continues for the years to come.

Before I conclude my remarks and send you on your way to explore the amazing exhibitions, I want to alert your attention

to an upcoming announcement regarding the City's Food Starter program.

Food Starter provides valuable access to shared production and packaging facilities, business advisory services and training to help entrepreneurs build and grow their businesses.

In the coming weeks, there will be an exciting announcement on the transformation of Food Starter into a new Public Private Partnership that will serve areas beyond just Toronto. This

will bring opportunities and expand connections across the region.

So with that, enjoy your time in Toronto and make the most of this important tradeshow!

Thank you.