



Michael Chan, MPP

Markham-Unionville

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**ENHANCED FESTIVALS TO HELP ATTRACT MORE VISITORS
McGuinty Government Supporting Local Tourism**

MARKHAM – The Markham Jazz Festival is receiving more than \$46,000 from the McGuinty government to help enhance programming, attract more visitors and boost the local economy, today announced Michael Chan, MPP, Markham-Unionville.

“We are very grateful for having been awarded a Celebrate Ontario grant,” said Markham Jazz Festival Artistic Director, Josh Grossman. “The grant will allow us to expand our programming, enabling us to reach more people and spread the word even further about our festival.” Mr. Grossman added, “Just as importantly, the grant is a vote of confidence in the work of the festival committee: to know that Celebrate Ontario supports the work that we do - and the great jazz festival tradition started 10 years ago in Markham - is a huge boost.”

This year, the McGuinty government has more than doubled its investment in Celebrate Ontario to \$10 million.

The Markham Jazz Festival is one of 90 festivals and events across the province that will receive funding through Celebrate Ontario 2008, launched in 2006 to support the growth of festivals and events.

“Festivals and events play a major role in boosting tourism across the province,” said Tourism Minister Peter Fonseca. “Tourism is an important economic driver and ensuring its long-term growth is part of our plan to strengthen Ontario’s economic advantage.”

“Celebrate Ontario gives Markham and other communities across Ontario a chance to shine by supporting the growth of local events that draw more visitors and help our businesses prosper,” said MPP Michael Chan. “The Markham Jazz Festival showcases the wonderful community in which we live while contributing to the quality and diversity of community life for our residents.”

QUICK FACTS

- Ontario has Canada’s largest tourism industry, and welcomes 42 per cent of Canada’s travellers.
- Ontario is home to more than 5,000 festivals and events.

LEARN MORE

Find other festivals and events across Ontario by accessing www.ontariotravel.net and clicking on the events calendar link on the left-hand menu.

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