

**Minister of
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A Message from Ontario's Minister of Economic Development and Trade

On behalf of the Government of Ontario I would like to extend greetings to everyone attending and competing in the 2009 Vortex Game Competition.

Video games are not just popular – they are big business. Gaming statistics show that 75 per cent of Ontario residents play video games and the digital media industry generates \$1 billion every year. Those numbers are growing, with no signs of slowing down.

The video gaming industry represents a new and exciting aspect of entrepreneurship in Ontario. And the Vortex competition helps emerging entrepreneurs gain a foothold in the industry.

If you're passionate about developing digital games, there's no better place to be than Ontario. The Greater Toronto Area (GTA) is the third-largest television, film and digital media cluster in North America. And the Vortex competition is the perfect jumping-off point for young game developers and emerging companies. This is the place to make connections and get your game off the ground.

Good luck – and good game!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sandra Pupatello'.

Sandra Pupatello
Ontario's Minister of Economic Development and Trade