

amherstburg RIVER TOWN TIMES

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Join nearly 7 million investors
who get the face time they deserve.



- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Memorials](#)
- [Contact us](#)
- [Market Place](#)

[Facebook](#)

Ramsey hosts town hall meeting to voice opposition to the TPP

By [rivertown](#) Tagged with [Chris Taylor](#), [town hall meeting](#), [TPP](#), [Tracey Ramsey](#), [Trans-Pacific Partnership](#)
August 10th, 2016 @ 2:05 pm

By Ron Giofu

As part of her role on a trade committee and as the federal NDP's international trade critic, Essex MP Tracey Ramsey held an town hall meeting to discuss the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

The meeting, held Saturday, saw roughly 70 people from around the riding attend with Ramsey, along with Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce (WERCC) president Matt Marchand and Unifor Local 200 president Chris Taylor, speaking against the controversial trade agreement.



Essex MP Tracey Ramsey, Windsor-Essex District Chamber of Commerce president Matt Marchand and Unifor Local 200 president Chris Taylor discuss the Trans-Pacific Partnership at a town hall meeting. Ramsey hosted the meeting last Saturday.

Ramsey outlined the background of the 12-nation deal, stating that it stretches as far back as 2005 with Canada joining in 2012. She said much of the deal had been negotiated and Canada arrived late in the game.

“We entered at a point of weakness,” the NDP MP said.

Ramsey accused the former Stephen Harper government of negotiating the deal on Canada’s behalf “in secret” and said the Liberals have promised to have a full and open public debate. She said she has asked many questions in the House of Commons relating to the deal and believes if it is enacted, the TPP could damage a variety of sectors including labour, the environment, agriculture and more.

“When you talk to the Canadian people about the TPP’s impact on jobs, on families, and on communities, no one sees anything good in that trade deal,” said Ramsey.

Although Canada signed the deal in February, the deal has not been ratified and Ramsey said the signature means the deal cannot be renegotiated. It can be refused, and many in attendance Saturday called for the deal’s refusal.

Marchand explained the deal would create a free-trade zone – which he also referred to as a “managed trade” zone – around the Pacific Ocean. He said the WERCC’s three primary concerns are currency manipulation, content of autos and the tariff reduction rate.

“By agreeing to the TPP, we’re agreeing we can’t stop currency manipulation,” he said.

Marchand added that trade is difficult enough with certain countries now, such as China, and predicted it could get worse if the TPP is ratified.

Taylor acknowledged trade is integral and “is part of what we do,” but said the TPP is a bad trade agreement for Canada.

“Trade has to be fair,” said Taylor. “The TPP may be good for a few countries but it’s no good for Canada.”

Taylor called it “a bad agreement, period” and said they are asking members of parliament across Canada to say no to the deal when it reaches the House of Commons for a vote. He said it could cost 20,000 jobs in the

automotive sector alone and stated there have been continuous job losses in the sector since the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was put into place.

The TPP also involves countries with poor human rights records, he noted.

“We are about to enter into an agreement with countries that don’t treat people in a humane way,” said Taylor.



Essex MP Tracey Ramsey discusses the TPP at a town hall meeting she hosted Aug. 6.

Ramsey added that manufacturers don’t even like the deal, noting that Ford Canada doesn’t want the deal to go through. She added a Tufts University study predicts the TPP would cost 60,000 jobs in Canada and increase inequality.

“The Canadian government has not done its own TPP economic impact study,” said Ramsey, noting that is one of the questions she asks the government about.

The United States and Japan have to ratify the deal before it comes into effect, and Ramsey said it is still unclear what the Liberal government’s position is on it. She said the NDP is against the trade deal, the Conservatives are for it and the Liberals are awaiting the results of the U.S. federal election.

“We can’t sit and wait for the U.S.,” Ramsey contended. “We can’t be the little sister and wait for the U.S. to make up their minds.”

Windsor youth Jada Malott said she has been regularly writing Prime Minister Justin Trudeau with her concerns on the deal and while she finally received a response after over 80 letters sent to him, Malott said she was “fuming” that her questions were not answered. She pledges to send 1,000 letters to Trudeau at once this September to try and get him to come to this area and discuss how the TPP would impact it.

“I’m going to send him so many letters that they’re not going to be able to find their gas bill,” said Malott.

Peter Festeryga, husband of former Liberal candidate Audrey Festeryga, called the TPP “a flawed agreement” but said he had no problem waiting for the U.S. election as it has to be ratified by the U.S. senate regardless.

“Keep your options open,” he said.

Festeryga drew boos from the crowd when he suggested that the best way to get Trudeau to come to the area was to elect a Liberal member.

Rob Byrne, a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), believed the TPP is one of the worst trade deals going and compared it to asking a child to go to Malaysia with a one-way ticket and seeing if they could find their way back.

Also in attendance at the open house were Windsor-Tecumseh MP Cheryl Hardcastle, Windsor West MP Brian Masse and Essex Mayor Ron McDermott.

Comments are closed.

Events Calendar

August 2016						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
«Jul					Sep»	

Twitter Feed