

Windsor chamber of commerce wants say in legalization of pot

'What we're trying to do here is establish a legal modern framework for recreational marijuana'

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The Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce sees great potential in the marijuana business.

It's asking the Canadian Chamber of Commerce to adopt a resolution at its AGM next month to put pot on the national chamber's agenda for next year.

A report from CIBC World Markets, released earlier this year, says Canada's federal and provincial governments could reap as much as \$5 billion annually in tax revenues from the sale of legal marijuana.

The Windsor chamber agrees, the legalization could create a market worth up to \$5 billion.

The chamber wants the government to implement a regulatory framework that balances competition and consumer choice with protecting the public.

"What we're trying to do here is establish a legal modern framework for recreational marijuana and it's production and distribution," Marchand said. "It's an industry that's growing quickly, there are concerns about quality of product, there are safety concerns, there are distribution concerns, so what we want to do is get in front of the issue."

In order for a resolution to pass, it requires support from two thirds majority of Canadian chambers across the country. If the resolutions are approved at the AGM, the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce can move forward with advocacy efforts.

It already has the backing of the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce.

Federal legislation to legalize marijuana will be ready in a year, Canada's health minister told the UN at a special session of the General Assembly in New York back in April.

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