

EMBARGOED MEDIA RELEASE

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Pro-Growth Policies, Such as Cutting Electricity Prices, Modernizing Apprenticeship System, Tackling Debt, Transparency and Lowering Cost of Doing Business, Needed in 2018 Provincial Election

WINDSOR, ON – Today, the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce (WERCC) in partnership with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) released *Vote Prosperity*, a platform and campaign outlining the Ontario business community's priorities for the upcoming 2018 provincial election.

"Ontario's business community is prepared to be bold and with *Vote Prosperity* we are seeking to motivate our political leaders to follow," said WERCC President & CEO Matt Marchand.

Vote Prosperity is based on four pillars for Ontario and the platform provides 18 unique recommendations that will help bolster Ontario's long-term economic future, while also addressing the pressing issues Ontario currently faces. Some of the 18 recommendations in *Vote Prosperity* include:

- Allow Ontario businesses to purchase surplus electricity at rates equal to or better than the exported price to other jurisdictions.
- Modernize the apprenticeship system.
- Work with industry and post-secondary institutions to ensure that program offerings remain responsive to the changing labour market.
- Create a meaningful plan to tackle the debt and more towards balanced or surplus budgets.

Over the coming months, ahead of the 2018 election, the Ontario Chamber Network will be voicing the concerns and recommendations outlined in *Vote Prosperity* with political parties and local MPPs and candidates. During the election, local chambers will be hosting debates where *Vote Prosperity* will be the primary focus of discussion.

Vote Prosperity outlines a number of current issues Ontario businesses face and includes original data from the OCC's member network. To learn more about the platform visit www.occ.ca/voteprosperty2018.

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