

EMBARGOED MEDIA RELEASE

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Ontario Chamber's Health Transformation Initiative Calls for Three Immediate Action Steps to Strengthen Public Health Care System

Windsor, ON – Today, the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce (WERCC) in partnership with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) released *Health Transformation: An Action Plan for Ontario*, which includes new and exclusive survey data from two of Ontario's top research firms that polled both OCC members and all Ontarians.

The guiding principle of this work is that the health care sector should be considered an economic driver for the Windsor-Essex region and province. The province currently spends \$52 billion a year on health care which is about 41 per cent of the budget.

After a year of research and consultation, the WERCC and OCC have developed three strategic recommendations to improve Ontario's health care system. Data released in today's report, from a survey conducted by the Gandalf Group, suggests only 39 per cent of all Ontarians are confident that the province's health care system will be able to fund a consistently high level of care in the future.

According to the survey data, 50 per cent of Ontarians agree that the health care system doesn't need more money, it just needs to be better managed. With this level of increased uncertainty in Ontario's health care system, through its membership, the OCC and WERCC wants to be a productive partner in revitalizing public care.

"A strong public system is one that puts patients at the centre of health care reform and provides Ontarians with the best-in-class care that they deserve," said Matt Marchand, President & CEO of the WERCC. "Public health care is a strong competitive advantage for the Windsor-Essex region with respect to the U.S. and we want to make sure we maintain that going forward," Marchand added.

Over the course of four reports, the Health Transformation Initiative has pointed to the overarching theme of making use of private sector expertise as a way to improve Ontario's health care system. With a vision for a sustainable and prosperous health sector that involves private sector participation, the fifth and final report, *Health Transformation: An Action Plan for Ontario*, highlights the top three recommendations that government can implement today:

- Renewed focus on patient outcomes for money spent
- More efficient purchase of goods and services while engaging the public sector

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- Better connectivity between researchers and entrepreneurs to the public health care system

“The OCC and WERCC hopes this action plan achieves a renewed interest in partnering with the private sector in order to solve problems and deliver the most innovative, best-in-class care,” said Marchand.

While the recommendations in this report are directed towards government, the WERCC is also calling on the private sector to take on a collaborative role in health system reform and drive solutions that will strengthen the economic health of Ontario’s economy and put patients first.

[Click here for more survey data information.](#)

A total of 773 OCC members were polled by Fresh Intelligence via an online methodology between October 25, 2016 and November 30, 2016. A total of 1,004 Ontarians were polled by The Gandalf Group between December 28, 2016 and January 3, 2017. A random probability sample of this size has a margin of error of +/- 3.1%, 19 times out of 20.

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