

EMBARGOED MEDIA RELEASE

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Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber Bringing Key Local Issues to Canadian Chamber Annual General Meeting

Windsor, ON – The Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce (WERCC) is attending the Canadian Chamber of Commerce AGM, September 23-25, 2017 in Fredericton, NB.

At the AGM, Chambers across the nation get plugged into the latest developments, trends and issues that are important to the Canadian business community and work to develop solutions that will break down the barriers holding Canadian businesses back. The policy resolutions going forward help set the Canadian Chamber's policy agenda for the upcoming year.

The WERCC has put multiple policy resolutions up for discussion at the AGM:

1. **Keep the De Minimis Threshold Low:** The WERCC, Sarnia Lambton, Thunder Bay, and Greater Niagara Chambers recommend that the federal government maintain the current Canadian De Minimis level of \$20. Only 22% of U.S. customers purchase from non U.S. sellers. By contrast, 67% of Canadians report having made online cross-border purchases. Given the large imbalance between online shopping in Canada and the U.S., it makes sense to leave the De Minimis where it is.
2. **Canada's Trade Policy Harmful to Canadian Business:** The WERCC, Greater Kitchener Waterloo, London, Hamilton, Greater Kingston, and Thunder Bay Chambers of Commerce recommend that the federal government create a strong and proactive plan to improve Canada's trade performance and bring our large trade deficits with Mexico and China to balance.
3. **Let the Provinces Decide on Transitioning to a Low-Carbon Economy:** The WERCC, Greater Kitchener Waterloo, London, and Greater Kingston Chambers of Commerce recommends urges the Government of Canada to let the provinces decide on how best to approach a price on carbon and rather than the federal government imposing a one size fits all approach.
4. **Securing North American Steel Production:** The WERCC, Saulte Ste. Marie and Hamilton Chambers of Commerce recommend that Canada be exempt from NAFTA section 232, as our steel markets are heavily integrated with the U.S.

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 WERCC can move forward with advocacy efforts.

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