

# NEWS

## NEWS

### City leaders talk about how to keep Windsor's youth here



From Left, University of Windsor president Alan Wildeman, Youth Attraction & Retention Coordinator at WEtech Alliance Dan Brown, Interim President and CEO of WEtech Alliance Yvonne Pilon , president and CEO of the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce Matt Marchand, and St. Clair College president John Strasser during the Windsor Gone Forum held at the Windsor Star News Cafe in Windsor, Ontario on January 15, 2015. (JASON KRYK/The Windsor Star)

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**Carolyn Thompson**

Jan 15, 2015 - 8:23 PM EST

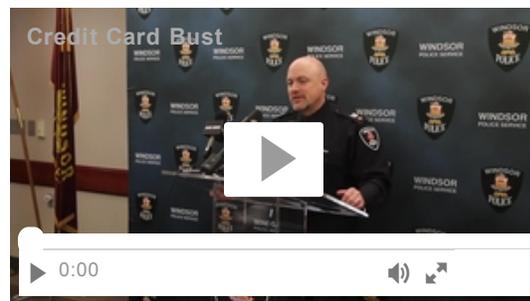
Last Updated: Jan 16, 2015 - 7:22 AM EST

Young people in Windsor are tired of watching their friends leave.

That message came out loud and clear at a forum on youth retention

Thursday night.

Dozens of people crowded into The Windsor Star News Cafe to



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hear educational, economic and entrepreneurial leaders share their thoughts on The Star's recent [Windsor Gone](#) series.

"I see a lot of very, very hardworking young people who have homes, who have cars, and who have worked their tails off to get where they are," said panelist Yvonne Pilon, CEO of WEtech Alliance. She joined Dan Brown, co-ordinator of YKnot, Matt Marchand, president and CEO of the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the presidents of St. Clair College and the University of Windsor.

Pilon said youth need to take ownership of their city, but that the city's leaders and employers have to step up to the plate.

"Millenials are very passionate, are hardworking, are creative and innovative and tech-savvy," Pilon said. "How can we make more young people a part of our community in terms of decision-making roles?"



It was a full house during the Windsor Gone Forum held at the Windsor Star News Cafe in Windsor, Ontario on January 15, 2015. (JASON KRYK/The Windsor Star)

She said employers should be thinking seriously about succession plans and training young workers. The city needs more shared work spaces and an entrepreneurial spirit, with youth on boards and partnered with mentors.

There were hints of a big announcement about a new entrepreneurship centre at the university coming next week.

Brown added that more festivals, shows and walkable communities would help entice youth to commit to Windsor.

"You have to really win people's hearts," he said.

<http://blogs.windsorstar.com/news/forum-tackles-youth-retention>

## City leaders talk about how to keep Windsor's youth here

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That's now 11 losses in 14 games for the Leafs, all since the end of a 10-1-1 run.

you have to really win people's hearts," he said.



University of Windsor president Alan Wildeman, left, shakes hands with St. Clair College president John Strasser during the Windsor Gone Forum held at the Windsor Star News Cafe in Windsor, Ontario on January 15, 2015. (JASON KRYK/The Windsor Star)

Mickey Bezaire, whose son Nathan moved out west nine years ago, made an impassioned plea for parents to recognize that moving away can be a good thing. Although it's hard, he said his son is better off with opportunities Windsor couldn't offer.

Alan Wildeman, president of the University of Windsor, said job creation comes from the private and public sectors.

"We could have the best university and college on the planet here in Windsor but if no company's coming to create jobs here then they're all going to leave."

Marchand added jobs in Windsor often don't match up with the interests or training of young people in the city. He said as high-tech merges with the auto sector, there will be tremendous economic opportunity.

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“Youngsters today have to seriously look at why they want an education, what they’re doing it for, and plan accordingly,” he said.

Wildeman added there are plenty of hardworking youth who have made Windsor a home.

“There are more successes being created by their ingenuity and their hard work than I sometimes think we give credit to,” Wildeman said. “There are some things I’m pessimistic about the state of the world but the ability of young people to figure this out, I’m optimistic about.”

There were two notable absences at the forum. Mayor Drew Dilkens did not attend, citing a prior engagement. Sandra Papatello, CEO of the Windsor-Essex Economic Development Corporation, also did not attend. She was moderating an economic panel in Toronto and couldn’t make it back to Windsor in time.

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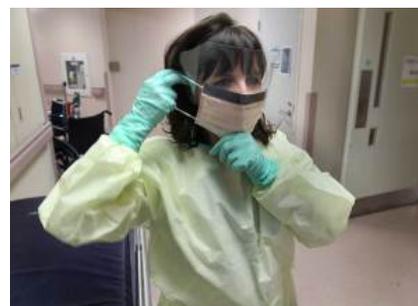
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It turns out that massive music festivals might not just be a noise disruption for locals — they might be causing issues for nearby aquatic life, too.

### Province OKs 30 new patient beds to battle spread of influenza, jammed up emergency rooms



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### Windsor police break up cross-country credit card forging scheme



Windsor police busted up a credit card making scheme and arrested some “rather odd” fraudsters after one suspect claimed they took the Go Train from Montreal to Windsor on a shopping trip.

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This was a very impressive panel with numerous ideas and revelations- kudos to organizing this and moving headlong into the brave new world of convergence DONE!

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**Gilles Dupuis**

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