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NEWS

Finance minister urges Senate to pass single sports betting



Ontario Finance Minister Charles Sousa (right) is joined by Mayor Drew Dilkens and Nemak technical manager Glenn Byczynski (centre) during an announcement at the Nemak plant in Windsor on Monday, January 19, 2015. The plant is planning an expansion that will create 80 new jobs and begin shipping parts to China for a new GM product. (TYLER BROWNBRIDGE/The Windsor Star)



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Carolyn Thompson

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Ontario's Minister of Finance is urging the Canadian Senate to pass a bill that would allow single sport betting, which some estimate could bring as many as 200 jobs to Windsor.

Charles Sousa said the bill, which was introduced by Windsor-Tecumseh NDP MP Joe Comartin, would bring money to the province.

"I think the Senate should move on it, and that's been the wishes of the federal government and all parties at the federal level. They should proceed," Sousa told the Toronto Star on Wednesday.

The bill has been stalled in Senate, despite federal and provincial support. It would modify the Criminal Code to remove a clause prohibiting people from betting on one sporting event.

Sousa met with members of the Windsor Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce last week. Matt Marchand, president and CEO of the Chamber, said single sport betting came up during that discussion.

"I'm very pleased with the Minister of Finance's comment," he said. "It puts more pressure now on the Canadian senate."

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