

Chambers urge Senate to pass sports betting bill



Caesars Windsor at 377 Riverside Dr. E shown on Feb. 24, 2012. (SPECIAL TO THE STAR/
Cynthia Radford)



[Dave Hall](#)

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Citing its all-party support, business organizations in Windsor and Niagara Falls are urging swift passage of a single sport betting bill which has been bogged down in Canada's upper chamber since last year.

Awaiting final debate in the Senate, Bill C-290 would allow single-sport betting at provincial casinos where gamblers must currently combine at least three games on their card.

Pointing out that this weekend's Super Bowl represents a missed opportunity, Matt Marchand, president of the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce, said "having single sports betting at Caesars Windsor for Super Bowl weekend would unquestionably add significant economic activity and excitement to our region.

Proposed by NDP MP Joe Comartin (Windsor-Tecumseh), the bill has received support from all three parties and easily passed in the House of Commons.

"It's hard to believe this has been on the Senate agenda for almost a year with little or no action when it has been supported in the House of Commons by all parties," said Carolyn Bones, president of the Niagara Falls Chamber of Commerce. "Having single sports betting at Fallsview Casino Resort and Casino Niagara for Super Bowl weekend would bring visitors to Niagara Falls near summer weekend numbers."

Debate on the bill is expected to resume Tuesday following a two-month break.