

# Ontario byelection is important for entire Windsor-Essex region



Three candidates for MPP of Windsor-Tecumseh. From left: Jeewen Gill for the Ontario Liberals, Percy Hatfield for the Ontario NDP, and Robert de Verteuil for the Ontario PC Party. (The Windsor Star)

Jul 25, 2013 - 3:42 PM EDT

Last Updated: Jul 25, 2013 - 4:17 PM EDT

The upcoming byelection in Windsor-Tecumseh is very important to our region as we will be sending a new representative to the provincial legislature to help advocate on our region's behalf. It is critical that all local voices are heard and that our elected representatives are fully aware of key local issues.

To shape the debate as in the past, the Chamber of Commerce was able to gather opinion through a timely election survey. Compared to the previous Ontario election survey in 2011, the responses to the survey show a shift in the list of member and community priorities and a slight shift in preferences for political parties and the composition of the next parliament that participants think is best for Ontario.

Issues such as government spending, job creation and the local economy were still at the top but they were joined by some newer issues including accountability in government, cost of power, skills training and the future of health care.

The Chamber has presented the full list of priorities and survey results to all three candidates and held an election debate on July 18, at the Caboto Club. The debate was sponsored by Media Street and was streamed live by The Windsor Star, broadcast live on TVCogeco, and AM800 CKLW.

The Chamber is proud of its record on election advocacy, having won the Ontario Chamber of Commerce Advocacy Award in 2012 for our election strategy the previous year but we must also thank our members for our success and their participation in the election survey.

The Chamber also wishes to thank our media partners for making the Chamber's all candidates' debate a success and with special thanks to Christie Bezaire from CTV News for being an outstanding moderator for the debate.

The Chamber also wishes to thank the candidates, Robert de Verteuil (PC), Percy Hatfield (NDP) and Jeewen Gill (Liberal) for their participation in the debate.

This election is about increasing confidence and positioning the region for the future. Our members are looking for active representation at Queen's Park of the entire region. The Windsor-Essex region has so much to offer to Ontario.

Simply stated, we have the best business community in the country.

You can access the Chamber's 2013 Election Survey results at <http://www.windsorchamber.org>.

*MATT MARCHAND, President and CEO, Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce, Windsor*