



Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce

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July 7, 2008

Mayor Francis and Members of City Council
Corporation of the City of Windsor
350 City Hall Square West
Windsor, Ontario N9A 6S1

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council:

Re: Regional Government

In order to reduce the costs of doing business and improve the delivery of services needed by the business community in this area, the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce supports stronger coordination of services and the concept of a single regional government for Windsor and Essex County.

Windsor-Essex region did not fully amalgamate its municipalities in the 1990s when a major Government of Ontario initiative reduced the number of municipalities in the Province from 815 to 447.

As a result of the municipal restructuring that ended in 1997, the County of Essex now has seven separate municipalities and one regional Essex County Council. The number of local councillors was reduced from 117 to 51. County Council was reduced from 42 to its current 14 members.

Potential regional services could include but not be limited to: Border authority, recreation centers and arenas, transportation corridors and links, regional public transit system, water and sewage treatment, land-use planning, libraries, safety and security services.

The Chamber will continue to explore alternative models and methods to achieve greater coordination of services between the City of Windsor and County of Essex . It will provide recommendations to municipal and senior levels of government and will advocate our position of working towards a single regional government.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Boyd
Chair of the Board