

# WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL Chamber of Commerce

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## MEDIA ADVISORY

April 15, 2016

### **Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber Heads to Ottawa to Meet with MP Brian Masse and Key Stakeholders, in Support of Safe and Regulated Sports Betting**

Windsor, ON – On Monday, April 18, 2016, the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce (WERCC) along with MP Brian Masse as well as representatives from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Canadian Labour Congress, Canadian Gaming Association and industry stakeholders will meet in Ottawa for a strategy session working toward passing Bill C-221: Safe and Regulated Sports Betting Act.

The meeting will focus on strategizing and generating awareness for restarting process of House of Commons support for Bill C-221, the successor to Bill C-290, Single Sports Betting. Bill C-221 is up for debate and second reading on April 19.

Bill C-221 would amend the Criminal Code by repealing one small section, allowing sports betting on single-wager sports events by providing the provinces and territories with the freedom to decide if they would like to make these changes.

If passed, Bill C-221 would help stimulate the economy, contribute to job creation, increase U.S. tourism at Canadian casinos and cause a reduction in the organized crime associated with single event betting. This would also provide Caesars Windsor with a strong competitive advantage versus Detroit and Ohio casinos.

“It is important to get Caesars Windsor first into the marketplace. Once people experience the wonderful facilities, they’ll certainly come back, which is great for tourism and the local economy in Windsor-Essex. It’s reasonable to assume that the same positive economic impacts would be replicated in gaming facilities across Canada should provinces choose to develop products to tap into this lucrative market,” said Matt Marchand, WERCC President & CEO. “Bill C-221 has the potential to create up to 100 direct jobs at Caesars Windsor, and more importantly, will be able to help secure the existing jobs at Caesars.”

The WERCC has advocated for Bill C-290, since 2012. Marchand traveled to Ottawa in 2013 in support of Bill C-290 and also received national support from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce membership that same year at the Canadian Chamber AGM. In 2014, the WERCC won an award from the Ontario Chamber of Commerce for its advocacy work on Single Sports Betting.

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