

WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL Chamber of Commerce

MEDIA RELEASE

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Ontario Chamber of Commerce and the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber Call on Local MPs to Prioritize Economy

Windsor, ON – The Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) and the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce (WERCC) are calling on the newly elected federal government and local MPs to fulfill their election promise to make Ontario’s economy a top priority.

The WERCC congratulates Brian Masse, Cheryl Hardcastle and Tracey Ramsey on their election victory and calls for immediate attention to address local and Ontario economic challenges. The OCC and the WERCC have identified three near-term priorities for the federal government: focusing on manufacturing and agriculture, getting infrastructure dollars out the door, and moving forward with tax relief measures for small businesses.

“It is important that the newly elected government deliver on its commitments to Ontario,” said Matt Marchand, President and CEO of the Windsor Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce. “We want to see increased federal investments in trade-enabling and productivity-boosting infrastructure. The federal government should also adopt a reciprocal market access strategy in trade negotiations as well as currency manipulation restrictions in trade agreements,” Marchand added.

Additionally, the OCC and the WERCC are calling on the federal government to move forward with tax relief measures for small businesses. The new federal government has committed to reducing the small business tax rate from 11 percent to 9 percent. The OCC and the WERCC are urging the new federal government to work with the business community as it designs and implements the tax cut.

The WERCC and the OCC also encourages the new federal government to address the gap between what Ontarians pay to the federal government and what they receive back – currently estimated at \$11 billion. For too long, says the OCC and the WERCC, Ontario’s economic challenges have not been adequately addressed by the federal government.

The WERCC will also work with its network colleagues, local MPs, labour and other stakeholders to get Single Sports Betting passed through Parliament and the Senate. Bill C-290, which would have amended the criminal code to allow for Single Sports Betting, was passed by the House of Commons but languished in the Senate for nearly three years.

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The WERCC will also build on momentum from our successful Canadian Chamber AGM to help ensure we get commitments on PACA type legislation for our agriculture community.

The OCC recently shared its federal economic strategy for Ontario with all MPs through its report, [*In Focus: Federal Priorities for the Ontario Economy*](#).

“This is a pivotal time for our region and our province,” said Marchand. “We look forward to continuing to engage with our local representatives as we work together to strengthen our business climate.”

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