

# WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL Chamber of Commerce

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**June 2, 2015**

## **Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber and Province Wide Coalition Urge Government to Expand Definition of Ontario Pension Plan Comparability to Protect Jobs**

Windsor, ON – The Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC), and a coalition of major Ontario employers are calling on the provincial government to broaden its definition of a comparable pension plan under the Ontario Retirement Pension Plan (ORPP), to be implemented in 2017.

In a letter addressed to Premier Kathleen Wynne, a coalition of over 150 businesses, sector associations, chambers of commerce, and boards of trade are today urging the government to expand its definition of pension plan comparability to include capital accumulation plans, including (but not limited to) Defined Contribution plans. This move would ensure that companies in Windsor-Essex that have an existing pension plan for their employees would not be forced to incur this new cost of doing business.

“We need to be mindful of the overall cost structure of doing business in Ontario,” said Matt Marchand, President & CEO of the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce. “The Chamber Network and major employers in the province have come together to advocate for a solution that will protect vulnerable Ontarians while ensuring that we sustain a business climate that fosters growth and job creation,” Marchand added.

With the provincial government set to clarify details of the ORPP in the coming weeks, Ontario’s business community has moved swiftly to provide recommendations that will balance the government’s policy objectives with the concerns of employers. The Ontario employer community supports the government’s policy objective -- to tackle the undersaving challenge and help all Ontario workers save for retirement.

“This letter presents an opportunity for government to better understand the concerns of Ontario’s business community,” said Allan O’Dette, President and CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. “It is important to recognize the contributions that many employers have already made, and continue to make, to their employees’ retirement savings.”

The Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber and its network partners will continue to work with the provincial government in the design of the ORPP and in managing its impact on the economy.

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