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La Fédération des chambres de commerce du Québec & Atlantic Chamber of Commerce Team up with Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber on Single Sports Betting

Windsor, Ontario; Fredericton, New Brunswick; Montréal, Quebec – The Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce has teamed up with the Atlantic Chamber of Commerce and the Fédération des chambres de commerce du Québec (FCCQ) in supporting single sports betting in Canada. The Atlantic Chamber of Commerce is an umbrella organization representing the network of over 100 local chambers in the four Atlantic Provinces. Fédération des chambres de commerce du Québec represents 150 Chambers of Commerce in Quebec and 1,200 of the largest Québec corporations.

This support letter is in addition to the previous letter on November 21, 2012, signed by the Ontario Chamber, the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce and the Windsor-Essex Chamber asking Senators to support Bill C-290.

In this joint letter, the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce, Atlantic Chamber of Commerce and the FCCQ call for the adoption of Bill C-290, which would delete specific provisions of the Criminal Code that make it illegal to bet on “any race or fight, or on a single sports event or athletic contest.” From there, each province would be able to decide whether or not, and under what conditions, wagering on single sporting events will be permitted to occur.

Bill C-290 received support from all parties in the House of Commons on March 2, 2012 and has been waiting the approval of the Senate since. The Bill would contribute to the creation of additional jobs at provincially-operated/regulated casinos, attracting U.S. citizens to Canadian casinos, and reducing organized crime associated with single event betting.

“The chamber coalition supporting Bill C-290 continues to grow across the country. The Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce greatly appreciates the support of Atlantic Chamber of Commerce and the FCCQ,” said Matt Marchand, President and CEO of the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce. “Additionally, two-thirds of Canadian tax payers support legalizing sports betting according to a recent Ipsos Reid poll,” added Marchand.

“It is estimated that nothing less than \$14 billion dollars of Canadian offshore and illegal betting goes under taxation radar every year. In an era where governments are clamping down on tax evaders and cheats it would seem a no-brainer that to move forward to legalize this type of betting would be a win-win for the Canadian gaming industry as well as for the Canadian tax

payer," said Pierre Cadieux, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Atlantic Chamber of Commerce.

"Allowing a regulated provincial organization to manage sport betting will certainly help to combat organized crime as well," said Bruno-Serge Boucher, Vice President of the FCCQ.

"Loto-Québec is a responsible corporation that contributes part of their profit for social development."

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Contact:

Lindsey Rivait, Communications Coordinator Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce
(519) 966-3696 ext. 25
lrivait@windsorchamber.org

Pierre Cadieux, President and Chief Executive Officer
Atlantic Chamber of Commerce
(506) 292-1033

Bruno-Serge Boucher, Vice-président, Soutien au réseau et formation
Fédération des chambres de commerce du Québec
(514) 844-9571
Bruno-serge.boucher@fccq.ca