

WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL Chamber of Commerce

MEDIA RELEASE

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Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce Wins Prestigious Ontario Chamber of Commerce Award for Work on Auto Strategy

Oakville, ON – The Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce (WERCC) won the 2016 Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) Advocacy Award at the OCC's Annual General Meeting in Oakville, Ontario over the weekend. This was for the WERCC's work for an Auto Strategy. This is the fifth award that the WERCC has received from the OCC since 2012 for Advocacy excellence and community leadership.

The Advocacy Award is presented annually for extraordinary efforts within the Chamber network by recognizing excellence in advocacy and community leadership. The Advocacy Award recognizes extraordinary policy-related efforts.

Over the past two years, the WERCC succeeded in assembling a large non-partisan coalition and launched it into a successful advocacy campaign to help put an auto strategy and advisor on the government's agenda.

In May 2014, the WERCC partnered with the University of Windsor and Unifor to hold its first ever Policy & Solutions Forum to discuss key issues – such as having an automotive czar and strategy – impacting our region and our province.

The WERCC is following up on this with a second Policy & Solutions Forum centered on automotive strategy that will take place in Windsor on May 11, 2016.

The Forum will focus specifically on giving Ontario Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure, the Hon. Brad Duguid and newly appointed Auto Advisor Ray Tanguay advice from global executives in the auto sector, senior labour and business leaders as well as academia to maintain and build Ontario's largest industry and export driver. Canadian Chamber President the Hon. Perrin Beatty and National Unifor President Jerry Dias will be in attendance as well.

"We are honoured that the OCC has acknowledged the exceptional advocacy efforts of the WERCC. This Provincial recognition underscores the value that our Chamber staff and volunteers deliver to our members each and every day," said WERCC Chair of the Board Dr. Janice Forsyth.

"The automotive strategy is about much more than our current situation in which we have over 100,000 people in Ontario that depend directly on the automotive sector employment, but it is not uniquely about their future, it is about Ontario's future and the future of the next generations to come," said WERCC President & CEO Matt Marchand.

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“We are pleased that our non-partisan, inclusive approach led into a national issue by building the widest possible coalition to accomplish our goal of building a better community and a better province. The Chamber thanks our partners: Unifor, University of Windsor and St. Clair College for their leadership and support because without them, we would have not had the level of success we collectively have achieved,” Marchand added.

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