

MEDIA RELEASE

April 14, 2014

Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce, the University of Windsor and Unifor Announce First-Ever Policy & Solutions Forum

Windsor, ON – The Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce presents the First-Ever Policy & Solutions Forum, sponsored by the University of Windsor, on Thursday, May 15, 2014 at the Caboto Club, located at 2175 Parent Ave, from 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

The purpose of this forum is to address key member issues and provide ideas and solutions for decision-makers.

“This is the coming together of business, labour and academia in a non-partisan way to bring ideas into the community. Such an undertaking as far we can tell has not been attempted on this scale by a local chamber,” said Matt Marchand, Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce President & CEO.

This busy half-day Policy Forum features four in-depth policy solution sessions with experts from Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Michigan as well as a keynote address from Frank Ingratta, former Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

“The Odette School of Business is pleased to partner with the Chamber and labour community in this timely and important forum and we look forward to the outcomes,” said Dr. Allan Conway, Dean of the Odette School of Business.

“Our priority is in continuing to work alongside business helping make sure we can be successful. This policy and solutions forum demonstrates a willingness to work together and provides a good starting point in bringing labour, business and academia together, speaking about the real issues that affect us all,” said Dino Chiodo, President, Local 444 Unifor.

Ontario Chamber President Allan O’Dette will give welcoming comments and Globe and Mail, National Business Correspondent Barrie McKenna will be moderating the power session.

The four sessions reflect local and provincial issues and will each last approximately 55 minutes:

- Session 1 - Business & Labour: Perceptions and Reality
- Session 2 - Energy Costs - How to Address Higher Power Costs
- Session 3 - Tax Base Challenges - Other Communities Successes
- Session 4 - Investing in Our Future: Infrastructure, Emerging Sectors, Skills

SESSION 1 Business and Labour: Perceptions & Reality

Moderator: Michael Siu, Vice-President, Research and Innovation, University of Windsor

Panelists: George King, McTague Law Firm, LLP
Bill Murnighan, Director of Research, Unifor

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WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL Chamber of Commerce

SESSION 2 **Energy Costs - How to Address Higher Power Costs**

Moderator: Barrie McKenna, National Business Correspondent, Globe & Mail

Panelists: Bruce Sharp, Senior Consultant, Aegent Energy Advisors Inc.
Adam White, President, AMPCO
Pierre-Olivier Pineau, Chair in Energy Sector Management, HEC Montreal

SESSION 3 **Tax Base Challenges - Other Communities Successes**

Moderator: Cheryl Collier, Associate Professor, Political Science - U of W

Panelists: Enid Slack, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto
Jared Rodriguez, President & CEO, Calder Group, LLC
Fred Morley, Greater Halifax Partnership
Ben Erulkar, Vice President - New Development Strategies, Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce

SESSION 4 **Investing in our future: Infrastructure, Emerging Sectors, Skills**

Moderator: Matt Marchand or Allan O'Dette, President & CEO, Ontario Chamber of Commerce

Panelists: Dr. William Anderson, Director, Cross-Border Institute, and Ontario Research Chair in Cross-Border Transportation Policy
Tanya Antoniw, Executive Director, Workforce WindsorEssex
Reza Shabazi, Executive Director, New Canadians' Centre of Excellence

Lunch Keynote Speaker Frank Ingratta, Former Deputy Minister of Agriculture

Thank you to our Event Sponsors: Presenting Sponsor University of Windsor, Unifor, Detroit Windsor Tunnel, Clarks LLP, Continental Rail Gateway, CF Groups, Enwin, Essex Power, Hydro One, New Canadians' Centre of Excellence, Shibley Righton LLP Law Firm, PWC, Caesars Windsor, Porter Airlines, Workforce WindsorEssex. CF Greenhouses, Westmoreland Sales/Topline Produce, Sunbrite Canning and Unico will provide flowers, greenhouse vegetable gift packs and canned goods gifts.

Tickets for the Policy & Solutions Forum are \$50. Register online at www.windsorchamber.org.

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