

Local chamber wins award for auto strategy push



GRACE MACALUSO, WINDSOR STAR

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Matt Marchand is pictured in this 2014 file photo. TYLER BROWNBRIDGE / WINDSOR STAR

The Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of

Commerce is the recipient of the 2016 Ontario Chamber of Commerce Advocacy Award for its push for a national auto strategy.

The award recognizes excellence in advocacy and community leadership as well as extraordinary policy-related efforts.

“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 Matt Marchand, chamber president and CEO.

Over the past two years, the Windsor chamber mobilized a non-partisan coalition, which helped put an auto strategy and adviser on the government’s agenda.

In May 2014, the chamber partnered with the University of Windsor and Unifor to hold its inaugural Policy and Solutions Forum to discuss key auto issues affecting the region and province.

On Wednesday, the chamber will hold a second Policy and Solutions Forum focused on developing an automotive strategy.

The event, to be held at the Caboto Club, is slated to include:

- Perrin Beatty, president and CEO, Canadian Chamber of Commerce
- Nick Marentette, past president Boshoku Automotive
- Deb Matthews, deputy premier of Ontario
- Jerry Dias, Unifor national president
- Anthony Papa, senior vice-president of global human resources, Federal-Mogul Motorparts
- Steve Rodgers, president of GS Global Solutions
- Ray Tanguay, federal-provincial automotive adviser
- Peter Frise, University of Windsor, scientific director and CEO of Auto21
- Waseem Habash, vice-president, academic, St. Clair College
- Mark Nantais, president, Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers’ Association