

WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL Chamber of Commerce

Media Advisory

August 1, 2012

Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce and the New Canadians' Centre of Excellence Inc. partner with Community Stakeholders to Attract New Immigrant Investors

Windsor, Ontario – The Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce and the New Canadians' Centre of Excellence Inc. have partnered to present a proposal to the Department of Citizenship & Immigration to lead a pilot project to bring Immigrant Investors and Entrepreneurs to the Windsor-Essex region.

The Chamber President and CEO, Matt Marchand; Gordon Moore, Chamber Treasurer; and Reza Shahbazi, Executive Director of the New Canadians' Centre of Excellence Inc. presented the proposal to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Immigration, Rick Dykstra M.P. in December 2011 as representatives of the Windsor-Essex Global Attraction of Investors Network (WEGAIN).

The proposal made by WEGAIN calls for a new concept allowing the business community to partner with the federal government to help smaller communities, such as Windsor-Essex, attract new immigrant investors and entrepreneurs. The proposal has already garnered support among other community stakeholders, including the University of Windsor, the WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

“Through a solid partnership between the region’s business community, key organizations and the federal government, the Chamber is confident we can ensure their success here in Windsor-Essex,” said Matt Marchand, President and CEO of the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce. “These would be investments made in our region that would not have happened otherwise and could be worth \$200 million over a ten year period,” added Marchand.

The Federal Government is holding roundtable discussions in several communities, including one in Windsor on August 1, on the federal immigration program. Our WEGAIN committee has been invited to make a presentation specifically focused on the immigrant investor program.

“AMO supports WEGAIN in getting its fair share of investor immigrants and entrepreneurs to under serviced areas in Ontario, such as Windsor-Essex which has the highest unemployment rate in the country,” said Gary McNamara, President of AMO and Mayor of Tecumseh.

“This is another opportunity for the Windsor-Essex region to bring new investment and jobs to help build our local economy,” said Ron Gaudet, CEO WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation.

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Immigration trends for Windsor-Essex over the past 10 years were favourable, with about 25,000 newcomers immigrating to the Windsor-Essex region. If Windsor-Essex were getting its proportional share of individuals entering Canada under the Investor and Entrepreneur Immigration Program, about 35 such individuals would have settled in Windsor-Essex in 2011. Over the past decade, that would mean approximately 250 individuals and a minimum regional investment of over \$200 million, which is a significant investment into our local business community.

For more information visit the Chamber website at www.windsorchamber.org.

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