

WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL Chamber of Commerce

Media Release

May 31, 2012

Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce Advocates for Reopening a U.S. Consulate in Windsor

Windsor, Ontario – In a move to acknowledge the high level of interest in facilitating greater trade, tourism, and travel between the U.S. and Canada, the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce has written a letter to the U.S. Ambassador that supports a reopening of the U.S. Consulate in Windsor as a visa-issuing and reporting post.

Previously, the U.S. maintained a U.S. Consulate in the Windsor-Essex region, but it was closed by the U.S. government in 1969. Recently, the Chamber met with staff of Michigan Rep. Gary Peters to discuss the issue.

Although Windsor-Detroit is the busiest border crossing in North America with over \$350 million in goods crossing daily, Windsor is the only major border city that does not have a visa-issuing post within 125 kilometres. The nearest consulate is located in Toronto, approximately 400 kilometres away.

In 2011 alone, more than 333,000 individuals crossed the border requiring visas. Since the demand from residents in the five-county region is greater than the number of visas issued at several of the U.S. visa-issuing posts in Canada, a Windsor-Essex-based U.S. Consulate seems completely reasonable. Additionally, with a Canadian Consulate already operating in downtown Detroit, there is substantial opportunity for building alliances already in place.

“The time is right to raise this issue with the U.S. Ambassador and we look forward to having further discussion on it,” said Matt Marchand, President and CEO of the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce.

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