

WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL Chamber of Commerce

MEDIA RELEASE

May 6, 2013

Windsor-Essex Chamber Resolutions Approved Province Wide at Ontario Chamber's Annual General Meeting

Chatham, Ontario – The Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce was successfully behind three key member priority resolutions approved at this year's Ontario Chamber Annual General Meeting held in Chatham, Ontario, May 3rd - May 5th, 2013.

The Chamber resolutions (attached) are in the following three areas: municipal arbitration, energy and border duty/tax enforcement. The Windsor-Essex Chamber partnered with other Chambers across the Province, including the chambers of commerce from Greater Kitchener Waterloo, Sarnia Lambton, Mississauga and Timmins Ontario.

Adopting a more Accountable and Transparent Interest Arbitration System

Municipalities across Ontario are increasingly challenged by rising costs resulting from arbitrated labour settlements for essential services such as police and fire. The decisions of arbitrators do not adequately reflect the ability of a municipality to absorb these additional costs, therefore local economic conditions must be considered in all contract disputes. The issue is important to local governments and municipal taxpayers as the results of arbitration can lead to significant cost pressures. The resolution, if acted upon would reduce the arbitration driven cost to municipalities.

Create a Long-Term, Competitive, Transparent, and Accountable Energy System in Ontario

On the energy front, the Chamber relied on its recently released Regional Energy Paper (REP) to recommend an energy strategy for the province that would ensure a reliable, modern and efficient supply of electricity at competitive rates.

The Chamber asked for more transparency to be applied to more components of the business energy bills such as the Global adjustment fees. In addition, the Ontario energy system must be more transparent with Ontarians regarding the costs of the current energy supply mix. Improving the energy system has the potential to lower the cost of energy for all Ontario businesses.

Enforcing Duty and Tax Collection at the Border

Cross border shopping has increased significantly over the last decade. The impact on Ontario retailers is costing the economy billions of dollars which could be minimized if duties were more often enforced at the border.

The Chamber partnered with the Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce to recommend greater duty enforcement at the border as well as elimination of the retrograde tariffs on finished goods entering Ontario.

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The Chamber continues to create policy solutions to issues of interest to our business community and will be actively pursuing the recommendations in partnership with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce.

To access the Windsor-Essex Chamber Resolutions you can visit the Chamber's website at:
<http://www.windsorchamber.org/about-us/policy-advocacy/>

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