

Windsor and Ontario chambers of commerce have to-do list for Trudeau government



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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 teaming up with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce to call on the newly elected Liberal federal government and the three local NDP MPs to make Ontario's economy a top priority.

Three top near-term priorities have been identified by the chambers, which are focusing on manufacturing and agriculture, getting infrastructure dollars out the door and moving forward with tax relief measures for small business.

"It is important that the newly elected government deliver on its commitments to Ontario," WERCC president and CEO Matt Marchand said in a news release.

"We want to see increased federal investments in trade-enabling and productivity-boosting infrastructure. The federal government should adopt a reciprocal market access strategy in trade negotiations as well as currency manipulation restrictions in trade agreements."

Liberal leader Justin Trudeau has promised to reduce the small business tax rate from 11 per cent to nine per cent and the WERCC and OCC are calling on the government to work with the business community as it designs and implements the cut.

Also, the WERCC and OCC are encouraging the federal government to address the gap between what Ontarians pay the federal government and what they receive back, which is estimated to be \$11 billion.

The WERCC says it will also be advocating for amendments to the criminal code to allow for single-sports betting, legislation which passed the House of Commons but has been languishing in the Senate for three years.

"This is a pivotal time for our region and our province," said Marchand. "We look forward to continuing to engage with our local representatives as we work together to strengthen our business climate."