
CHANGING THE WAY ONTARIO DOES BUSINESS*McGuinty Government Seeks Input From Windsor's Small Businesses*

April 12, 2012

NEWS

"Ontario is looking to make it easier for more companies to do business with the Province." That's the message the Honourable Harinder Takhar, Minister of Government Services brought to small business leaders at a roundtable discussion he hosted today at the Windsor-Essex Chamber of Commerce.

In February, the Province launched consultations with business associations and trade organizations across Ontario to learn what procurement processes work well and which ones need to be improved. As part of these consultations, small business representatives, including those from the Windsor region, were invited to provide written feedback or attend roundtable discussions.

All government purchases are made using open and fair procurement processes. These processes ensure businesses have equal access to procurement opportunities, which in turn reduces the costs of the goods and services provided.

Making it easier for companies to do business in Ontario is part of the McGuinty government's plan to create and support jobs for families while strengthening the economy.

QUOTE

"We're reaching out to a broader range of businesses that haven't yet had the opportunity to work with the provincial government. It's part of our plan to reduce barriers and streamline our procurement processes to support all businesses interested in working with us."

— Harinder Takhar, Minister of Government Services

"Windsor and Essex County continue to diversify and together we are working to seize opportunities in our changing economy. Growing and diversifying the local Windsor and Essex County economy is a priority for the government. Introducing businesses and business leaders to procurement opportunities is an important initiative that will assist in strengthening our economy."

— Teresa Piruzza, MPP for Windsor West

"This is a good example of the Chamber providing high value business opportunities for our business community to expand, grow and create local jobs. The Chamber is looking forward to working with the Ontario government on this initiative and we want to thank Minister Harinder Takhar and Teresa Piruzza, MPP for Windsor West."

— Matt Marchand, President and CEO, Windsor Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce

QUICK FACTS

- Approximately 96 per cent of vendors doing business with the Ontario Government are small and medium-sized businesses.
- More than 90 per cent of government purchases are made with Ontario-based firms.
- In 2010/2011 vendors were offered 53 seminars in 38 different locations to learn how to do business with the Government of Ontario.

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