

# Local chamber gets national support for pot resolution



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Marijuana plants being cultivated in Salem, Ore., where marijuana is legalized. *GILLIAN FLACCUS / ASSOCIATED PRESS*

The voice of the local business community has secured national support for its resolution aimed at

## cashing in on legalization of recreational marijuana.

The Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce, together with its counterparts in the Niagara Region and Abbotsford, B.C., brought a resolution to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce's annual general meeting in Regina, Sask. The resolution calls on the government to implement "a regulatory framework that will allow competition and consumer choice." The resolution also says the framework should protect consumers and youth.

In a vote Sunday, the national chamber endorsed the resolution.

"This is an important win for our agriculture sector and for our region," said Matt Marchand, head of the Windsor-Essex chamber.

Marchand says the legalization of marijuana would create a market worth \$5 billion. The government should aim to safely regulate and maximize the economic benefit of the cannabis industry.

The local chamber also got national support for its call for a Canadian steel industry strategy.

The steel market, is unstable, in large part because of dumping by China, Marchand said. Steel is important component of the local and provincial economy, but it's hard for domestic companies to compete globally.

"We're sending a message to the federal government that we want fair trade and that bad actors in the steel sector need to be called out," Marchand said.

He called the support the local resolution received "an important victory for Canadian jobs and for the Canadian steel industry."

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