



WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL

Chamber of Commerce

ANNUAL REPORT
2014-2015

519-966-3696

windsorsexchamber.org

OUR VISION – As the recognized champion of business the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce influences the course of economic events in the region.



OUR MESSAGE – MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Over the past 12 months, the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce has worked to make unique and significant contributions in shaping our regional economy and improving the quality of life in the business community of Windsor and Essex County.

With our members continued support, the 2014-2015 year was one of big accomplishments for our Chamber.

We are proud of the attention our advocacy efforts received this past year, and the positive impact we have made in influencing decisions that help your businesses and organizations succeed and thrive.

Thanks to our diligent advocacy, this year saw the appointment of Auto Czar Ray Tanguay after we secured national support for the Federal Government to undertake expedient reviews of business attraction strategies used by other jurisdictions at the Canadian Chamber AGM.

The Auto Policy is an issue that stemmed from our First-Ever Policy and Solutions Forum that took place in May 2014. This innovative event brought together business, academia, and labour to find solutions for our community and beyond.

Our advocacy work also spanned to teaming with Chambers province-wide to urge Government to expand the definition of the Ontario Pension Plan comparability to protect jobs, securing Province-wide support for key local agricultural and small business issues (PACA and TRIP) and the Ontario Chamber AGM, and successfully in partnering with the New Canadians' Centre of Excellence Inc. in affecting change of the Immigrant Investor Program.

Recently, we implemented a Small Business Committee as we recognize that 80% of new jobs are created by expanding SMEs. The Chamber's goal is to create an unprecedented support program for Windsor-Essex SMEs.

We are continuing to forge ahead with these issues and are committed to improving the quality of our services to exceed our current and future members' expectations.

Our valued volunteers are also an integral and vital part of the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce. Your tireless work, support, and efforts are greatly appreciated.

Thank you to our sponsors. Your ongoing support is something we never take for granted and allows us to continue as the award-winning Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Sincerely,



Matt Marchand
President & CEO

Carolyn Brown
Chair, The Board of Directors

MEET OUR 2014/2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ms. Carolyn Brown
Chair*
Corporate Leader of Transportation Service & CEO, Your
Quick Gateway & Windsor Detroit Tunnel Corporation

Mr. Jeffrey MacKinnon
Treasurer*
Partner, McTague Law Firm LLP

Mr. Marty Beneteau
Director
Vice-President Editorial, Southwest Region, Postmedia
Editor-in-Chief, The Windsor Star

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Chair, Environment & Energy Committee
Associate, Dillon Consulting Ltd.

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Professor, Odette School of Business
Director, Research and Interdisciplinary Learning,
Entrepreneurship, Practice, and Innovation Centre

Mr. Bill Sivell
Chair, Membership Services Committee
Owner/Broker, Liberty Business Brokers of Ontario

* Denotes member of Executive Committee

WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE STAFF

Matt Marchand
President & CEO

Holly Connelly
Executive Assistant to President & CEO

Lindsey Rivait
Communications Coordinator

Marianne Burke
Director of Events

Igor Siljanoski
Policy Manager

Barbara Malmberg
Event Coordinator

Sherri Gowman
Director of Sales and Marketing

Caitlin Hildenbrand
Assistant to Director of Sales & Marketing

Concetta DiCesare-Cafueri
Finance and Office Administration

2014-2015 was a stellar year by any objective measure for the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber in Policy and Advocacy.

CAMPAIGNS

Auto Strategy

- September 2014 began our national auto strategy campaign along with our partners, leading to the appointment of Ray Tanguay, the national automotive advisor.

Immigrant Investor Program

- Successful in getting some of our key ideas into the Federal Government Immigrant Investor Program announced in December 2014.

Maritime Goods Movement

- Assisted with the Maritime Goods Movement fee to be withdrawn from consideration in the US Congress. This fee would have put the Port of Windsor and other Canadian Ports at a competitive disadvantage.

PACA

- Took a leadership role for our small and medium sized agriculture firms to get compensated in the event of payment default. The Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce led the way in getting Ontario and national support for PACA type legislation to be introduced in Canada. This advocacy led to PACA being added into the national campaign platforms of the LPC and the NDP.

Single Sports Betting

- Attempted to move the Senate to vote on C-290 to allow single sports betting but the session closed. We will join with our partners to continue to advocate for its successful passage in the next parliament.

TPP

- One of the first Chambers to express our concerns on the TPP particularly as it relates to automotive. The Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce wanted to see the deal before it took a position.

Travel Rebate Incentive Plan

- Lead the advocacy effort to encourage a cross border shopping rebate to US visitors coming to Canada by offering a 5% rebate at land border duty free stores for purchases made here. This was adopted province wide at the Ontario Chamber AGM.

The Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce and its network partners have been exceptionally active on its advocacy to lower the cost of doing business in Ontario with respect to: Cap and Trade, Ontario Retirement Pension Plan, Electricity Costs and other regulatory burdens on business.

YEAR IN REVIEW – POLICY AND ADVOCACY

DEBATES

Windsor Mayoral Debate

- Hosted over 300 guests at the mayoral debate helping our members and the community put key issues and ideas to the candidates.

Youth Flight and Unemployment Debate

- The Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce was a featured panelist in offering ideas and solutions for the community debate on youth flight and youth unemployment.

TOWN HALL

- Engaged and informed our members and the community with the interactive town hall.

WINDSOR-ESSEX TECH SHOW FEATURING IT SOLUTIONS

- The WERCC and KPMG hosted our TECH SHOW featuring Google and Jake Cohen from Detroit Venture Partners helping to highlight Windsor/Essex as a place for startups and technology companies.

During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce worked hard to be the hub of business connectivity and top shelf advocacy for the region and will strive to create an environment where Windsor-Essex County business can succeed.

For further details please visit: http://www.windsorchamber.org/in_the_news/media-releases

YEAR IN REVIEW – MEMBERSHIP SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mandate: The Membership Services & Development Committee makes recommendations and implements upon approval, services that add value to the Chamber's membership in order to contribute to the economic success of member businesses. The committee works in partnership with Chamber staff and other committees to attract new members and increase retention.

Lunch & Learn

Designed to provide members valuable and relevant business tips and advice from local Chamber members who are experts in their respective field. The event featured a panel of human resources experts who discussed successful recruiting, hiring and retention strategies to a sold out audience.

January 22, 2015

Hosted by WFCU Centre in partnership with Ovation's Canada



Wake-up Windsor-Essex

A unique breakfast networking event, Wake-up Windsor Essex gives attendees the opportunity to present their business / organization to a captive audience as well as network. These events were held in February and May to sell out audiences.

February 18, 2015

Hosted by Windsor Yacht Club



May 14, 2015

Hosted by Eatery 101 at St. Clair College



YEAR IN REVIEW – MEMBERSHIP SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

New Member Welcome (Maximize Your Membership)

Provides new members the opportunity to network as a group, receive additional information and meet affinity program representatives in order to maximize their membership. This welcome reception was strategically held for new members prior to our December and June After Business networking events.

December 18, 2014

Hosted by Willistead Manor & The City of Windsor



June 3, 2015

Hosted by The Canadian Club Brand Centre



Complimentary 2015 New Member Welcome

Canadian Club Brand Centre
Tasting Room
2072 Riverside Dr. E.

Wednesday, June 3rd
4:30pm–4:45pm: Arrival
4:45pm–5:00pm: Welcome & Greetings



The committee utilizes the Satisfaction and Exit Survey previously developed. Feedback received is used to monitor value for membership investment in order to achieve maximum membership retention and growth.

Thank you to our valued 2014 – 2015 committee members who volunteered their time to coordinate and provide these educational presentations and networking opportunities to our members.

2014 – 2015 Membership Services & Development Committee Volunteers: Bill Sivell (Chair), Owen Stibbard, Stephanie DiFederico, Karen Gill-Gore, Lorraine Goddard, Jacqueline Regan, Shannon Rickwood



YEAR IN REVIEW - EVENTS



September 2014

September After Business @ Rochester Place Golf Course & Resort – September 18, 2014

Sponsored by



October 2014

2014 Windsor Mayoral Debate & Luncheon @ Caboto Club – October 8, 2014

Moderated By Craig Pearson 

Sponsored by



Small Business Week Luncheon @ Caboto Club – October 21, 2014

Featuring Special Guest Speaker, Carlos M. Gomes, Senior Economist and Auto Industry Specialist

Sponsored by



October After Business @ The Other Place Catering & Reception Centre – October 23, 2014

Sponsored by



YEAR IN REVIEW - EVENTS



November 2014

Windsor-Essex Tech Show @ Caboto Club – November 4, 2014

Featuring IT Solutions



Sponsored by



15th Annual ATHENA Scholarship Luncheon @ Caboto Club – November 7, 2014

Featuring Sandra Pupatello, CEO, Windsor-Essex Economic Development Corporation

Sponsored by



138th Annual General Meeting & Luncheon @ Ciciaro Club – November 19, 2014

Featuring Keynote Speaker Flavio Volpe, President Automotive Parts Manufacturers Association

Sponsored by



YEAR IN REVIEW - EVENTS



December 2014

Holiday Party 2014 @ Caesars Windsor – December 12, 2014

Sponsored by



December After Business Networking Evening @ Willstead Manor – December 18, 2014

Sponsored by



January 2015

25th Anniversary BEA News Conference & Reception @ The Windsor Star News Café – January 13, 2015

Sponsored by



YEAR IN REVIEW - EVENTS



February 2015

February After Business @ The Keg – February 5, 2015

Sponsored by



Doing Business in the US/PACA Breakfast @ St. Clair Centre for the Arts– February 25, 2015

Sponsored by



March 2015

Living Wage and How It Is Good For Your Business Luncheon @ Caboto Club – March 10, 2015

Featuring Catherine Ludgate, Manager of Community Investment Vancity Community Credit Union

Sponsored by



8th Annual Warden's Luncheon @ Ciciaro Club – March 13, 2015

Featuring Guest Speaker Tom Bain, Essex County Warden

Sponsored by



Go For Health Wellness in the Workplace - 1 Step at a Time Breakfast @ Caboto Club – March 26, 2015

Featuring John Atkinson, Director of Cancer Prevention & Tobacco Control, CCS Ontario Division



YEAR IN REVIEW - EVENTS



April 2015



Regional After Business Tradeshow @ Caesars Windsor – April 2, 2015

Sponsored



25th Anniversary Business Excellence Awards @ Caesars Windsor – April 22, 2015

Sponsored by



YEAR IN REVIEW - EVENTS



May 2015

May After Business @ Walkerville Brewery – May 7, 2015

Sponsored by



Distinguished Speaker Luncheon @ Caboto Club – May 20, 2015

Featuring Yves Desjardins-Siciliano, President & CEO of VIA Rail Canada

Sponsored By



June 2015

June After Business @ Canadian Club Brand Centre – June 3, 2015

Sponsored by



79th Annual Golf Tournament @ Kingsville Golf and Country Club – June 8, 2015

Sponsored By



Sponsored by



JOHNSON



YEAR IN REVIEW - EVENTS



June 2015

Lifetime Achievement Award Gala @ St. Clair Centre for the Arts – June 19, 2015

Featuring Award Recipient Martin Komsa, President and CEO of the Windsor Family Credit Union

Sponsored by

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June 2015

Distinguished Speaker Luncheon @ Caboto Club – June 25, 2015

Featuring Guest Speaker Lawrence Schembri, Deputy Governor Bank of Canada

Sponsored By



RBC Wealth Management
Dominion Securities

Thank You

To our event sponsors and the volunteer members of our 2014-2015 events committees, without your help we could not host our first class business events.

After Business Committee: Kelly McWhinnie-St. Denis (Chair), Jennifer Charron, Jamie Fryer, Cara Kennedy, Gordon Orr, Raquel Rankin, Paul Schlosser

Business Excellence Awards Committee: Natalie Henderson (Chair), Beverly Becker, Kelly Blais, Sharon Coburn, Marlene Corey, Kate Dunlop, Amber Hunter, Gis le Levasseur, Yvonne Pilon, Jonathan Rong, Shelby Warwaruk, Sue Zanin

Golf Committee: Cara Kennedy, Bethany Jessop, Heather Mazzotta, Blake Vandenharn

Windsor Essex Tech Show Committee: Frank Abbruzzese, Ann Marie Athavale, Adam Davis, Melissa Munger, Yvonne Pilon