

MEDIA RELEASE

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Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber Joins Ontario Electricity Stakeholders Alliance to Announce Framework for Smart Electricity Decisions

Windsor, ON – Today, the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce (WERCC) along with the Ontario Electricity Stakeholders Alliance, a diverse group of 19 energy consumers, businesses, producers and distributors from across Ontario, took the unprecedented step of joining together to announce its Power Framework to ensure smart electricity decisions.

“The rising cost of electricity, up to 400 per cent in the past number of years, has made it the number one issue for businesses across Ontario,” said WERCC President & CEO Matt Marchand.

With eight recommendations, the Power Framework provides the roadmap Ontario needs for smart electricity decisions that achieve the best outcomes for Ontario’s electricity consumers through the principles of transparency, competition, objectivity and independence.

All three main political parties have at one point in Ontario’s history struggled tremendously with energy planning. With new technologies, electricity planning is going to become even more complex and difficult. Therefore, the Ontario Electricity Stakeholders Alliance is asking each party to commit to its Power Framework, which focuses on:

- **Transparency:** A plan to build confidence in an open, accountable system with an engaged Legislature and rules that respect the public’s right to be informed;
- **Competition:** A commitment to competitive processes, wherever feasible, that help support lower costs for both government and electricity consumers;
- **Objectivity:** A commitment to smart electricity decisions informed by rigorous cost-benefit analysis and objective procurement criteria that ensure Ontario ratepayers are getting the best value; and
- **Independence:** A process where independent agencies like the IESO, OEB and Ontario Electricity Safety Authority are appropriately resourced to make independent decisions and be held accountable by the provincial Legislature.

Ontario’s electricity sector governance and planning framework should be revised to reflect these fundamental principles. This will help ensure the sector’s cost effectiveness, reliability and ability to adapt. Decisions about Ontario’s electricity system have far-reaching implications, impacting the province’s economic strength and prosperity for years to come, and are fundamental to the realization of the province’s ambitions.

About the Ontario Electricity Stakeholders Alliance:

The Ontario Electricity Stakeholders Alliance is a diverse group of energy consumers, businesses, producers and distributors from across Ontario. The alliance is made up of industry

WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL Chamber of Commerce

associations, consumer groups, boards of trade, and leaders from Ontario's business community. The alliance currently includes the following members:

Association of Power Producers of Ontario;
Canadian Federation of Independent Business;
Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters;
Consumer Policy Institute;
Federation of Rental Housing Providers of Ontario;
Greater Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber of Commerce;
Greater Kingston Chamber of Commerce;
Greater Toronto Hotel Association;
London Chamber of Commerce;
Mississauga Board of Trade;
Ontario Chamber of Commerce;
Ontario Energy Association;
Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers;
Ontario Federation of Agriculture;
Ontario Restaurant Hotel & Motel Association;
Peterborough Chamber of Commerce;
Society of Energy Professionals;
Toronto Region Board of Trade; and
Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce

All Ontarians stand to benefit from smart electricity decisions. Indeed, the breadth of members of the Ontario Electricity Stakeholders Alliance speaks to the far-reaching impact of electricity policy, and the importance of enacting this framework.

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