

WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL Chamber of Commerce

MEDIA RELEASE

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Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber Continues to Take Leadership Role on Regulating and Maximizing Economic Benefit of Recreational Marijuana

Windsor, ON – The advocacy efforts of the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce (WERCC) and the Greater Niagara Chamber on recreational marijuana has led to the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) network partners to write a letter to Premier Kathleen Wynne, calling on the Province to immediately begin a robust consultative process aimed at developing a regulatory framework for the distribution of recreational marijuana.

The letter calls for a number of actions that would benefit Ontario's economy: eliminating the underground economy, limiting points of access, empowering communities, investing in addition prevention and treatment and giving the private sector the opportunity to become a responsible distribution channel. Based on national level estimates from Dundee Capital Markets, it is estimated that recreational marijuana sales in Ontario will range between \$1 and \$2 billion by 2024.

This comes as a result of the WERCC's upcoming resolution at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting, taking place September 17-19 in Regina, SK.

Should the resolution, "**Maximize the Economic Benefit of Recreational Marijuana**" co-sponsored by the WERCC, receive national support (two thirds majority) and in the event that the Government of Canada passes legislation to legalize recreational marijuana use, the Ontario Chamber network recommends that the government implement a regulatory framework that will allow competition and consumer choice while also protecting consumers, the public, and youth.

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