

WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL Chamber of Commerce

MEDIA RELEASE

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Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber Secures National Support for Scaling Up Small Business at Canadian Chamber AGM



Regina, SK – The Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce (WERCC) and its network partners secured national support to help grow small business, enabling more Canadian firms to scale up. This is part of the WERCC’s ongoing campaign to focus attention on the needs of small business. This took place Monday at the Canadian Chamber’s Annual General Meeting in Regina, SK.

The resolution states:

Helping Small Business Scale Up. *Canada’s continued growth and prosperity depends on our capacity to innovate and translate these new ideas into real economic gains. To do so, we need to create an environment that lets our most promising firms thrive. However, key barriers are preventing entrepreneurs from continuing to build their business and achieve high-growth, or “scale up”, in the country.*

The WERCC and its Chamber partners recommend that the federal government:

- Create scale up visas/special immigration designations to accelerate the immigration process for international talent recruited by Canadian companies
- Work with governments and private sector to identify current gaps in financing
- Ensure public programs are aligned to facilitate scaling up
- Increase support for businesses seeking to engage in international trade
- Designate a percentage of all public procurement budgets to support businesses
- Work with provincial/territorial governments, sector associations, and other relevant organizations to collect and publicize data, enabling accurate measurement of the scale up challenge and monitor the success of public policy responses.

“Building on our advocacy efforts with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce in our *Small Business: Too Big To Ignore* campaign, the WERCC is pleased that the policy resolution to create ‘scale up visas’ was passed. This was a very successful AGM for not only small business, but for the Windsor-Essex Region,” said Marchand.

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This resolution was submitted by the Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce and co-sponsored by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Kingston Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber of Commerce Brantford-Brant, the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Whitby Chamber of Commerce, the Burlington Chamber of Commerce, the Newmarket Chamber of Commerce, the Oakville Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce, the Sarnia-Lambton Chamber of Commerce, and the Tillsonburg District Chamber of Commerce.

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