

WindsorEssex Development Commission Announces Lean Initiatives for MTDM Companies

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 17, 2008, Windsor - The Windsor Essex Development Commission (WEDC) released the first invitations to join in a new initiative to train local Machine, Tool, Die and Mould (MTDM) companies in best practices and new techniques. The training will be delivered by Lean Design Canada, a division of Munro & Associates, a world leader in lean technologies and training.

A recent study commissioned by WEDC with Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (MEDT) funding identified that many local companies were not utilizing best practices in their operations. "Lean" best practices are critical if companies expect to compete in today's marketplace. This training, funded by MEDT through a "Communities in Transition" grant will show companies a new way forward and make them more competitive in this global economy. With half of the cost of this training being covered by the Provincial grant money and an additional reduced rate of \$5000 per company negotiated by the WEDC, this is an opportunity that has never been available in this community before.

"This is really an exciting opportunity for the MTDM companies in our region to improve their competitive position in a challenging market" says Tracy Pringle, Director of Business Retention and Expansion at WEDC. "We are very pleased that the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade have decided to fund this important program. The program will provide the necessary tools for local suppliers to retain their existing automotive business and offer competitive approaches to capitalize on opportunities in new markets such as aerospace".

"The techniques and strategies that the selected companies will be taught are the same ones that Munro and Associates has used to assist hundreds of companies around the globe. The result of past training has allowed companies to turnaround their operations resulting in significant savings for these clients," says Alistair Munro, Lean Design Canada's Business Development Manager.

Funding is available to accommodate twenty companies. To be fair to all sector companies, the process for selection will be based on a "first come first serve" approach. A number of companies have already signed up for the on-site training. One of the first includes Platinum Tool technologies headed by Dan Moynahan, President. "This training will not only help our company become more cost effective and efficient but it will also assist all regional shops that participate to become more competitive. It will place the Windsor Essex Region on the global map in terms of a *Lean Community*," says Moynahan.

As spots will fill up quickly, interested companies must register by October 15th, 2008. Applications will be accepted until all twenty spaces are filled. Companies are encouraged to contact Tracy Pringle at the WEDC as soon as possible if they are interested in taking part in this program.

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