



**COVID-19 Economic Task Force
Meeting #10
AGENDA**

**May 20, 2020
3:15 pm – 4:15 pm**

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/331091208?pwd=Y1VFZnhscngwZHFoUTdjTGNYcjh5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 331 091 208

Password: 031262

One tap mobile

+16473744685,,331091208# Canada

+16475580588,,331091208# Canada

WindsorEssex COVID- 19 Economic Task Force Purpose:

In a timely manner, collect, coordinate and disseminate information on strategies, programs and other remedies that are available to mitigate the effects that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on the economic well-being of workers, entrepreneurs, businesses and the Windsor-Essex regional economy.

Assist in the development of industry specific, scenario-based recovery strategies.

1. **3:15 pm – 3:20 pm** Remarks from Chair – Stephen MacKenzie
 Update on recovery strategy
2. **3:20 pm – 3:25 pm** **Jim Lyons** – Construction Sector
3. **3:25 pm – 3:30 pm** **Frank Abbruzzese** – Cybersecurity
4. **3:30 pm - 4:00 pm** Committee Reports
 Research – Workforce Windsor Essex & SBC
 Agriculture & Agri-Food – Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers
 Logistics, Transportation and Cross Border Issues – Institute for Border Logistics & Security
 Hospitality & Tourism – Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island
 Professional Services & Retail – Windsor Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce
 Manufacturing – Canadian Association of Mold Makers
5. **4:00 pm – 4:15 pm** New Business – (all)

Meeting Begins at 3:17

Jim Lyons – Construction Association

- Initially allowed to be a workplace that can work and was considered emergency
- That changed after approximately 3 weeks.
- Some subsectors allowed to carry on
 - Residential and infrastructure
- ICI (industrial, Commercial, Institutional)
 - Took a serious hit on employment
 - Employers started suffering
 - If they were engaged in projects the costs were ramped up
 - Companies are now mobilizing again
- Ontario Construction secretariat
 - Provide research in construction industry
 - 560,000 employer in Feb and March → **464,000 in April = 96,000 ee drop**
 - There was limited understanding regarding what was deemed 'essential'
 - In the one month shutdown – contractors suffered
- **SURVEY 2 from OCS**
 - 64% of contractors were stopped (ICI predominately)
 - U Windsor and St. Clair both stopped as did all other industrial projects
 - Some of the intentions for industrial contracts have been deferred and **POTENTIALLY LOST**
- Now that everyone is back to work
 - OCS will be putting out a report to show the current state
 - Later in the month, a future report will come out
- Looking to GOV't to see if there is any cost recovery available
 - Concerns ongoing with return to workplace and jobsites
 - Cost of protocols – how will these costs be covered?

Question- Daniel Biafore - Skills trades – how is there going to be retraining?

- High level funding discussions with Feds and Province regarding re-training and training costs.
- There are a lot of tasks that are in high need and will be needed
- People are needed in the industry

Question – Ginny Wilkinson – how do things look in regard to the supply chain

- Very large concern
 - Ex. You have a building that is moving towards completion
 - Lets say the lighting has been specified – The vendor of record may be from China or other places in the world. This will require significant amount of 'alternates'
 - Iron and drywall can be acquired locally
 - We may be in a situations where alternates

Stephen MacKenzie - The idea of cybersecurity and the growing concern around threats

Frank Abbruzzese – Cybersecurity

- Reality is – 8 weeks ago – we all ran out and left the doors unlocked
- Fishing schemes are happening every single day
- We have a strong tech community
- We want to be here to help educate anyone
- Cyber Insurance – ransomware etc. This is key
 - Most claims are 50 – 75\$ for smaller companies
 - Small to medium sized companies need to also consider cyber security insurance
- We are being challenged with lack of speakers and microphones
- Response rate has gone up quickly in the tech sector as everyone is online at all times and available.

Yvonne Pilon

- Make sure to check with your instance provider for cyber insurance
- Hits for profit and not for profit

Research – Workforce Windsor Essex & SBC

Justin Falconer/ Julian Villafuerte/ Natasha Marar

- WFWE will be working with the TF
- Review of the notes
 - Scenario Building – What are the uncertainties that economy is facing
 - Will people wbe willing to travel
 - Border open
 - GDP up or down
 - Consumer behaviour
- 1) Extent to which marco economy will impact our community
- 2) Extent to which consumer behavior will be impacted
- How does the spread of the virus impact our community
 - 4 scenarios – What are the four most probably scenarios
 - Drastic changes of the global economy
 - Back to Normal Scenario
 - Economic Contraction
 - Creative destruction process
- Next Steps
 - Take the notes
 - Build the draft out further
 - Each scenario will have point and time changes (pre-vaccination and post-vaccination)
 - What are different indicators drive the economy to each other scenarios
- Goal is to return back to the industry groups and the overall task force
- How their sector may react to each scenario and what is required

Natasha Marar

- Great value in the collective working together
- Excited to be working together with WFWE

Stephen MacKenzie

- Regardless of what scenario unfolds, there will be different responses by each industry

Agriculture & Agri-Food – Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers

Justine Taylor

May 19, 2020 – Ottawa, Ontario – Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

“Today’s announced expansion of the eligibility to the Canada Emergency Business Account is a big deal for farmers across the country. We heard from many farmers that the Canada Emergency Business Account did not work for them, because many did not meet the payroll criteria. We listened to their concerns, and changed the eligibility to ensure farmers without payroll can now access the \$40,000 interest-free loan available under CEBA – up to \$10,000 of which is forgiven if the rest is repaid by December 31, 2022.

In dealing with the impacts of COVID-19, our Government has consistently said that we are prioritizing speed, and we continue to fill the gaps. For those farmers who are still unable to access CEBA, they can turn towards the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund. Farmers can be assured that we have their back, and we are continuing to roll-out supports for our agriculture sector.” Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

Taken from news release, Prime Minister announces expansion of support for workers and small businesses “To qualify under the expanded eligibility criteria, applicants with payroll lower than \$20,000 would need:

- a business operating account at a participating financial institution
- a Canada Revenue Agency business number, and to have filed a 2018 or 2019 tax return.
- eligible non-deferrable expenses between \$40,000 and \$1.5 million. Eligible non-deferrable expenses could include costs such as rent, property taxes, utilities, and insurance.

Today’s announcement builds on our recent measures announced in support of the Agriculture Sector, including:

- \$3 billion wage top-ups for essential workers delivered through provinces and territories
- \$200 million additional credit for Canadian Dairy Commission to buy surplus butter and cheese
- \$125M through Agri-Recovery to manage backlog of cattle and hogs, and other COVID cost
- \$50 million for first-of-its-kind surplus food purchase program
- \$77.5 million to help reopen or upgrade processing facilities and improve worker safety.
- \$20 million to ensure capacity and safety of Canadian Food Inspection Agency inspectors
- \$50 million to help farmers safely welcome seasonal and temporary foreign workers
- \$5 billion in added capacity to Farm Credit Canada
- \$173 million in deferred Advance Payment Program loans for cattle, grain and flower producers
- \$100 million Agriculture & Food Business Solutions Fund to offer financial support to businesses
- \$100 million for food banks and local food organizations to help food security.
- Authorizing 75% wage subsidy for businesses suffering significant revenue declines
- Launched the Step up to the plate employment portal and marketing campaign
- Working with provinces to the increase of Agri-Stability interim payments to 75%
- Working with provinces to treat labour shortages in the horticulture sector as an eligible risk under AgriInsurance
- Expanded Canada Summer Jobs program to prioritize workers in food supply chain

Agri-Food Workplace Protection Program – Producers

- OMAFRA announced a new funding program under the Canadian Agriculture Partnership to support growers address new and immediate health and safety issues directly related to COVID-19 impacts.
- The funding will cover 70% of eligible expenses up to \$7,500/farm. Eligible expenses can be incurred starting May 14, 2020 and applications will be received on an ongoing basis as funding remains. Each farm business can only apply once.
- Funding will fit within one of two categories:
 1. Occupational Health and Safety Measures: For projects to implement occupational health and safety measures related to COVID-19 on farms with intensive use of labour
 2. Enhancing Healthy Workforce Access and Accommodation: For projects to address workforce access and accommodations as a result of an on-farm outbreak of COVID-19
- Full details and the application process can be accessed at:
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/cap/capproducers.htm>

Please note, you are not allowed to receive more than 100% of reimbursement of a specific expense. You are encouraged to review programs carefully, including timing of eligible expenses, to determine how to allocate their eligible expenses incurred this spring across the two programs.

Farm Credit Canada (FCC) \$100-million Agriculture and Food Business Solutions Fund

- The fund is set up to support a wide range of enterprises in the agribusiness and agri-food sector, including companies involved in primary production, agri-tech, manufacturing, packaging and distribution. The fund will help companies in times of need through innovative solutions such as convertible debt investments and other

flexible financing solutions. Applications will be assessed individually on their merit, and will be supported to a maximum of \$10 million.

- The primary goal of the [Agriculture and Food Business Solutions Fund](#) is to return recipient companies to a sound financial footing. To qualify, companies need to demonstrate an impact from an unexpected business disruption, such as the loss of a key supplier, temporary loss of a facility or permanent loss of critical staff or leadership. Funds cannot be used to repay shareholder loans or purchase shareholder equity positions.

Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)

- The Government of Canada recognizes the significant impact of COVID-19 on businesses, workers and communities. The national \$962-million [Regional Relief and Recovery Fund](#) (RRRF) supports businesses across Canada that have been unable to obtain funding through other federal COVID-19 response measures.
 - FedDev Ontario is delivering \$213 million to help relieve the economic impact of COVID-19 for small businesses and \$39.4 million to support rural businesses through the [Community Futures Development Corporations](#). Visit the [Regional Relief and Recovery Fund page](#) for more information and to apply.
 - Additional flexibilities may be available to existing clients under FedDev Ontario's current funding streams and past programs. For information, visit [FedDev Ontario's Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) page](#).
- **Still concerned with catastrophic losses as these funds do not address those issues**

Logistics, Transportation and Cross Border Issues – Institute for Border Logistics & Security

Susan Anzolin

- Confirmed that the border is closed for non-essential until June 21st
- Most of OEMS are back up and running – monitoring the situation
- Updated stats next week – expectation of numbers to increase
- Highlight Canadian Consulate General – work by **Marion Fantetti**
- **Cross Border Announcement today**

Matt Johnson

- Launch of partnership with Detroit Mobility Labs
- Attract mobility companies into the region – nearshoring
- Tied to the FedDev funding – leverages the VR cave and Ontario Centres of Excellence
- Partnered with the Small Business Centre
- Partnership was launched through relationship with Yvonne Pilon

Hospitality & Tourism – Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island

Gordon Orr

- Partner webinar tomorrow – Respond Restart Recover plan
 - Over 100 attendees
 - Still in respond phase
- **Tourism Windsor Essex conducted a survey that closed Monday.**
- Some results:
 - over 53% have had to close their business
 - over 63% have had to lay off staff
 - over 70% of the respondents have laid over at least 50% or more of their staff
 - more than 53% of the respondents reported that you their total business volumes YOY are down by more than 75%
 - 2 top supports essential for getting their operation back on line is Marketing (46%) and access to PPE(40%)
 - 93% of the respondents say that their new normal will be moderate changes (32%) or drastically different (61%)
 - most challenging aspects of re-opening is the same now or if 3-6 months from now:
 - physical distancing

- consumer confidence
- cleanliness protocols
- workplace health & safety

OHRMA

- 24% occupancy rate in County
- 19% occupancy in City
- Insurance rates are expected to go up 35% year over year
- Insurance is at a TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT

TShirt Campaign

- YQGStands Strong campaign - \$5 goes to Charity

Chris Savard

- Not a lot to report from Devonshire
- Exterior entrance stores are open – SportCheck and Marks
- Hudson Bay, Indigo, Starbucks may open
- There should have been a consistent retail opening strategy across the province
- Other provinces
 - Not all retailers will all open
 - People are still reluctant to open
 - There is a slow return to a ‘modified normal’
- Each tenant will be required to provide their own PPE
- 3/5 entrances are open

Professional Services & Retail – Windsor Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce

1. Main Task Force:

- Results on the Recovery survey and discussion with all 5 subcommittees being tabulated and available soon. I’ll share with everyone when available
- New [Workplace PPE Supplier Directory](#) has been launched, an up-to-date list of Ontario companies and business associations that are ready to supply personal protective equipment. Offering PPE: [apply to be listed here](#). Buying PPE: [visit the directory here](#)

2. Odette School of Business Survey:

- Thanks to Dr. Kyle Brykman for joining our call
- Organizational resilience and employee engagement in response to COVID-19 survey launched today, targeting SME’s but seeking input from all kinds of businesses in the Windsor-Essex community
- Survey link: https://uwindsor.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2mMJTbYBAVuywtL
- Gift Card incentives to participate
- Results will be shared with participants in a white paper and webinar
- PLEASE SHARE WITHIN YOUR NETWORK AND THROUGH YOUR SOCIALS

3. Funding Programs:

- Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) program extended until August 29, 2020. Additional eligibility
- The new Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF) will support businesses unable to access other funding programs. A total of \$252.4 million will be available for southern Ontario businesses. More information available on the [FedDev Ontario](#) website
- To date not a lot of applications for the Rent Relief Program, approximately 10%

4. Good News Stories:

- First patient released from Field Hospital at St. Clair College and transferred to another facility for recovery
- DWBIA will be providing COVID Kits to their Members
- Ambassador Bridge offering free tolls to Essential Workers starting this Thursday and until further notice
- New company launched in Windsor, Go Fog It, a disinfecting service using the power of fog to kill viruses, including COVID-19

5. Misc:

- KPMG's Return To The Workforce Guide is attached
 - Windsor Chamber compiling sector specific Reopening Checklists, in conjunction with Windsor-Essex County Health Unit and other partners
 - Leamington Chamber has assembled a Reopening Guide for their Member businesses
 - DWBIA hosting Webinar Series, dates and topics attached
 - The Small Business Centre's [Ask The Expert](#) series continues
 - Upcoming Windsor Chamber [Webinars](#) include Finding Your Brand's Voice on May 20th and The Art of Networking on May 21st
 - [The Leamington Chamber's](#) Community Conversations series continues on May 21st with Dr. Justine Taylor from Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers Association
- More owner/operators are more eligible for CEBA
 - Checklist has been sent out to the community health network to develop for 'return to work' in the local community
 - Community Health Unit
 - Webinar on the 28th – guidelines to re-open and what to follow – Wajid Ahmen and T. Marentette will be on webinar

Ontario Chamber of Commerce and APMA Survey

- https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kBXvzHX_eOyNGH-aigK3InSVjcFx9ZrP/view
- 75% of those that were surveyed were concerned about contracting COVID-19
- ¾ of people who are self-isolating are in
- 30% are

Manufacturing – Canadian Association of Mold Makers

Mike Bilton

- Regarding report out – taking a break from the survey
- CAMM / AUTOMATE – CEWS – very well received in sector
- ISED – health and safety and border issues – looking to host a webinar to be determined
- Webinar – Legal Ramifications and HR Law – Thursday the 28th at Noon – TBD
- Financial Study – went well
- Moving into the Ramp-up phase – F150 and Mustang will be full production in first two weeks
- Ford is more aggressive than the other two local OEMS
- Japanese are slow and steady – more steadfast in production rates
- If we see a smooth and efficient ramp-up, then the supply will reap the benefits → if there is a slowing of market demand, there will be a slowing of supply.
 - **WE WILL KNOW MORE IN A MONTH AND A HALF – 3-6 weeks**
- Honda and Toyota
 - Advantage – the production in Ontario is a WORLD vehicle
- APMA
 - Back to work protocols
 - Expectations of suppliers – there is a cost to COVID – what is that going to do to pricing and peak prices – what is the impact at all levels
- **Forecast for Sales is down 30%-34%**

- Not expect the Feds or Province to associated to and funding efforts from Gov't
- There will be a pause if people do not want to buy vehicles – may be 4-6 month delay

Nancy Creighton - Ontario Gov't site - www.ontario.ca/ppe