



**COVID-19 Economic Task Force
Meeting #11
AGENDA**

**May 26, 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

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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
2. **3:20 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
3. **4:00 pm – 4:15 pm** New Business – (all)

Steve MacKenzie

Research – Workforce Windsor Essex & SBC

Justin Falconer

- Presented a scenario planning project call
- Work will be complete next week
- 2 page outlines in each of the four potential futures
 - o Fed by the notes and conversations that have been ongoing with the people on this call
 - o Potentially done by this time next week
- Phase 2
 - o Interventions and actions that would could be taken to assist the potential futures
 - o What may happen and how can the greater we prepare for each scenario
- This is complimentary to the work that is being undertaken by each group or association

Agriculture & Agri-Food – Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers

Justine Taylor

- Reminder reporting requirements for ministry
 - o If you do have a positive case, the er' must notify within 4 days **to the ministry of labour**
- Gov't of Canada – employment and skills program
 - o Announced yesterday
 - o 9.2 million
 - o 700 new positions
 - o Up to \$14,000 per ee
 - o Also up to 80% cost share
 - o Youth up to 30 years old
 - o Expenses can be up until March 2021
- Health Unit
 - o WECHU - guidance to growers and an ORDER
 - EE's in agri sector must work for only work for one workplace
 - Updated contact
 - Nothing new or unexpected
 - Can an ee work for multiple er's through the season
 - What defines a single workplace?
 - Is this an entity?
- Food and Bev Ontario
 - o Initiative launch to build support in public
 - o Front Line Food Facts – build public facing site – what is happening and building of confidence
- Virtual Inventory Tool
 - o There are a few processes that are available at other levels

James Maitland, Dainty Foods

- We are beginning to see a **shift with behaviors at retail as consumers wallets** tighten. Retail spending is still up 14% but that is a drastic decline from previous weeks.
- 28% of consumers are reporting they only have enough spending power for essentials and
- 19% report they have no spare cash at all.
 - o This has changed buying habits considerably and value brands and chains are seeing an increase, as consumers are looking for more size options.
 - o Major retailers are seeing a buying change
 - o Discount brands are seeing an increase
 - o Smaller and large
- TOP 4 CONCERNS
 1. Food prices,

- 2. Personal health
- 3. economy and
- 4. personal debt are the top 4 concerns of consumers today.
- Out of all cdn operations
 - o Expect impact for 3-6 months witho
- Rice industry
 - o 12-18 month recovery period
 - o Commodity market will be impact
 - o Price of Rice is pushing for Soya and Corn
- Global supply chain will be very slow to recover. Canadian suppliers are telling us it will be 3-6 months before their operations and capacity will return to normal. For rice we are anticipating a 12 – 18 month recovery based on growing cycles for the supply chain to recover. We expect prices to remain high and continue to increase over the next 6 months as supply continues to be short.
- Operational impacts – Automation and non value work being eliminated has been a focus for our team and many others now that the retail rush has subsided. We have adjusted our capital budget for this year to increase by 20%. Employee expenses are increasing as people are expensing work from home costs, lost buying power or consolidation power exploring how to create group wifi plans at multiple locations, overhead costs are being reduced as digital signatures, office operation costs decrease. Work life balance has been positively impacted for those working at home.
- Dainty food – ioncrease of capital budgets of 20%
- Employee expense reports are going up, there is more internet billing. More personal usage
- Can we group personal billing plans
- **90% of ee's are seeing an increase in work life balance**
- **Q- food inflation**
 - o Generalities of 20% to 30%
 - o Will vary greatly by commodity
 - o Meat sector will drive up pricing

Q- COVID increase cases

- Health Unit has the most updated number
- Agriculture is currently
- Congregate housing or close proximity workers – easy to get a higher number of COVID cases
- Introduction of those positives are from community inward – contracting from community
- Once it has been introduced, the workplace policies need to be mandated
- Expect to see 'Batches' of COVID
- This is most lilkey to happen on packaging lines as opposed to greenhouse industry

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

Susan Anzolin

- Bridge and Tunnels operators Association – Data for April
- Ambassador Traffic
 - o Yoy down 72%
 - o Truck traffic down 51% for month of April YOY
- Tunnel
 - o Total Traffic down 89%
- City Data
 - o Truck Traffic on Huron Church Thursday of last week
 - o 82% of pre-covid outbreak → up from approximately 60%
 - o Week over week increase of 22% approximately
- Airlines
 - o May 20th Canada Announced LEAF -Large Employer

- Belief of Oil and gas and Airlines
 - Air Canada looking at \$1bn from IPO
- Porter Airlines
 - Hoping to start on June 1
 - Suspended until July 29th
- Air Canada
 - Adding routes and flights
 - June and July routes – NO WINDSOR FLIGHTS at least until AUGUST
- Trucking Industry
 - 90% of all carriers have had impact on revenues
 - Many carriers are doing ok
 - Canadian Trucking alliance
 - 37% of all carriers – if they don't see an improvement over next 3 months – will be out of business
- Rest of Canada is interested in what we are doing
 - The GROWER – will be doing an article
 - World Economic Forum - Cross Border Healthcare Workers feature upcoming

Hospitality & Tourism – Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island

Gordon Orr, TWEPI

- PROGRAM
- Partner with RTO 1 Webinar Series
 - Tuesday at 11am – Ramping up as the Curve Flattens – Going out at 3:30
- Shout out to City Council
 - Charging BIA's for creative solutions
 - Waiving of fees
- Destination Checklist
 - Ministry of tourism
 - Region Tourism Committee – Going over that checklist with each Tourism Agency in neighboring towns

Dharmesh Patel, ORHMA

- ORHMA
 - Launched the Dining Safe guide
 - ON Covid Hub Webpage
- May 16th Hotel & Motel Stays
 - **City 10.8% - \$112 daily rate**
 - **County 28% - \$107**
 - **Overall average is approximately 20%**

*** DINING SAFE GUIDE www.dinesafe.ca

Professional Services & Retail – Windsor Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce

Rakesh Naidu & Keith Chinnery, WERCC

- Health Unit – Safe Return to Business Webinar
 - Industry Specific guidelines are coming out tomorrow (May 28th)
 - **Register on Chamber Website**
- Ontario Chamber of Commerce
 - Patios to be opened
 - Windsor is leading the way with the waiving of fees
- Chamber Network
 - Rent relief program
 - 70% drop in revenue → requesting a 30% drop in rev.
 - Advocating for a cost covered by Gov't relating to the PPE and other expenses

- Themes
 - o Cost of compliance
 - o Advocacy
- Business Resilience – SME, Not for Profit, Charities –
 - o Opened now
 - o Free advice
 - o And website
 - o The BRS is a hotline SMEs, not-for-profits and charities can call for free tax and accounting advice to help them navigate the pandemic.
Advisors can answer questions about tax regulations and implications amid COVID-19, what government support programs best fit their circumstances as well as strategic considerations to support their recovery planning. Organizations can get help by calling 1-866-989-1080 or visit www.CBRN.ca/BRS for more information
- Small Business Relief Funds are being opened
- Odette School of Business - [Survey Link](#)
 - o 15-20 minute survey
- Shop YQG Concept
 - o With TWEPI
 - o Looking for a June 15 launch
 - o Website to be house on the TWEPI and Chamber site
 - Reminder to shop local etc.
- **CBRN Small Business Relief Fund**
The Canadian Business Resilience Network is launching the Small Business Relief Fund with Salesforce. 62 Canadian SMEs, hit hard by COVID-19, will receive a one-time grant to help the future of their business. Applications will open June 1. Visit www.cbrn.ca/smallbusinessrelieffund for more information.

Q- Will there be a COVID Surcharge?

- Not sure if it is legal or
- Hotel Tax needed to be legislated
- GINNY WILKINSON
 - o Met with mixed reviews
 - o In Northern Michigan
 - o Is a legal charge in the USA
- Hotel may charge and extra hotel services?

Manufacturing – Canadian Association of Mold Makers/ Automate Canada

Shelley Fellows, Automate Canada

- Taken a pause of weekly cadence of weekly surveys
- Next survey on June 7th
- **Automotive plants have restarted**
 - o A few hiccups
 - o Some small supply chain issues
 - o Entire supply chain is not yet open
- Anecdotally
 - o Some companies are still not back up to full capacity