



**COVID-19 Economic Task Force
Meeting #14
AGENDA**

**June 17, 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)

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

Susan Anzolin

- Another month of border closure extension
- Need to develop strategy. Discuss with CAMM to provide an information session for companies to redevelop border crossing strategy
- Work with Nancy and WEtech: webinar (June 30th): logistics and supply chain, the impact of COVID and opportunity with us July 1st USMCA comes in effect. Partner with Windsor transportation club. Poster will be sent out by the end of the week. Targeting companies: IM+EM, customs border services, logistics.

Agriculture & Agri-Food – Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers

Justine Taylor

- Working with Ministry of Agriculture about 2 weeks to increase testing in agricultural sector. Fear and concerns of the entire workforce. Need everyone to understand the importance of testing.
- Mandatory testing for temporary foreign workers is asked by some people. Need to consider
- Continue promote Workplace control and prevention measures.
- Enabling testing with all ee. in agriculture sector.
- Ensure testing regime provide valuable information to ee. and organization

James Maitland

- Processing side: significant delays on railway and port 7-10 days, more country wide. US delay as well.
- Retail sales : slowest month 11% dropping. Boat sales dropping. Food service start to ramp up but slower.
- Dainty foods, rice price remains all time high and continue to go up until Oct.

WFWE

Julian Villafuerte

- Working on draft on recovery plan
- Start plotting sectors, look at starting point for playbook
- Start having conversations with each committee
- Need facilitation on focusing group, keep tuned

Hospitality & Tourism – Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island

Gordon Orr

- Meeting minutes with the Minister and Mayor Dilkens will be circulated on Friday from his office.
- Great conversation with BIA, small business and chamber of commerce about shop YQG.
- 5th Annual Best of Windsor Essex Award ceremony is Live on social media

Dharmesh Patel

- Get ready for restaurant reopening
- Restaurant should start taking actions now
- Hotel: a bit better number for last 20 days. Occupancy rate increased both in the city and county.

Professional Services & Retail – Windsor Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce

Keith Chinnery

- June 17 Town Hall and Q&A with The Honourable Vic Fedeli
- Encourage people to hold off non-essential shopping until Stage 2 to try to keep dollars here in WE.
- Medical cost of compliance: 6-8 patients per hour, but now per day
- Rental business: only doing 30% of their business
- a 60-65% attendance in malls for current stage 2 cities.

#ShopYQG:

- flyer attached promoting FREE business listing at www.shopyqg.ca
- Link to digital assets including pricing list, social graphics, logo package, PPE signage, window posters and clings : https://www.dropbox.com/sh/w3pqiraf80q6v75/AAARAOIMW_-z_kH1QSIFByva?dl=0

- Weekly prizing based on social shares, including the grand prize of \$500 Devonshire Mall gift card awarded at the end of summer

Digital Main Street:

- Businesses can find all of the DMS programs at <http://www.windsorsexsmallbusiness.com/dms>
- Some key take aways:
- FREE Services – ShopHERE – free e-commerce site built in a few days
- Digital Service Squad – FREE advisory services to help businesses build communication plans through Social Media, set up online presence, Google My Business Listing, 360 pictures etc to ensure customers can find them
- Digital Transformation Grant - \$2,500 grants will be available to businesses to apply for to implement new digital tools

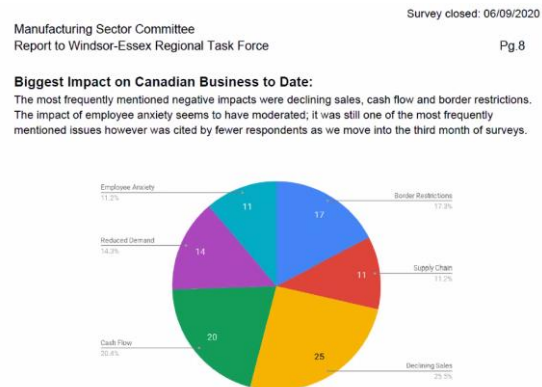
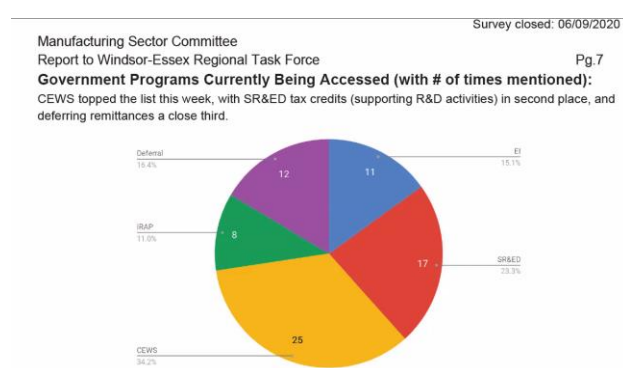
Recovery Assistance Program:

- Helping businesses go digital
- FedDev announcement coming soon
- Program executed by Windsor Chamber of Commerce and Chambers across Ontario
- Compliments Digital Main Street program (focus on retail)
- Provides digital tools, funding, mentorship particularly to medium and large manufacturers

Manufacturing – Canadian Association of Mold Makers

Mike Bilton

- Border issues: survey from week 9. CEWS most used funding stream for manufacturing. Doesn't fit the structure for manufacturing esp. automotive. Preliminary talks for new rules of eligibility criteria.
- Impact on Canadian Business to date: Border issue: Debugging phase on new equipment is important and long, needs to deploy personnel to conduct debugging, but sometimes access got denied due to border officer's mood.
- Tier 1 seeks for other suppliers. Need Must HAVE and NICE HAVE hard data for border crossing. Marion will connect with CBSA officer.
- First week of July is the next survey.
- Hosting HS webinar on June 25th, 11:30-1:00



Daniel Biafore

- Product solutions team: change the focus to reopen and pivot. WSIB 10 sick days legislation.

Andreas Waller

- OCE: new programs coming up

Vladimir Franjo

- Preparing funding to explore automation in greenhouse, agriculture sector.

Yvonne Pilon

- Ignition Program - launching in the Fall

Nancy Creighton

- Business Resilience Service Hotline <https://www.canadianbusinessresiliencenetwork.ca/> eg. Info on CEWS
- Regional Relief and Recovery Fund for business to go digital
<https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2020/06/feddev-ontario-and-partners-to-assist-nearly-23000ontario-businesses-in-embracing-online-commerce.html>