



**COVID-19 Economic Task Force
Meeting #16
AGENDA**

**July 8, 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)

Palette Inc.

Daniel Beliciu

<https://paletteskills.org/>

- Palette Inc. is a national talent platform that bridge people from different areas together. It starts with companies looking for people and talent and work backward. Programs are designed to target the talent the companies want to hire. Funding from FedDev for next 2-3 years. 200+ clients. Focus on innovated knowledge-based economy, advanced manufacturing, agribusiness. Conducting research in July. Launch first program in mid-October. WE EDC will be providing office space.

WFWE

Justin Falconer

- Research committee met today and finalize next steps
- Finalizing scenario-based report, map in strategic directions
- Third party outlooks and recovery plans
- Walk through 4 scenarios next week with everyone, need feedback
- Follow-up to the original business survey, launch another survey and include a few more sectors (BIA and city of Windsor), maybe by the end of this week
- Plan to develop customized index to track recovery

Agriculture & Agri-Food – Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers

Justine Taylor

- Targeted testing campaign
 - o Working with Ontario health, ORHMA and coordinate the outcome of the testing campaigns
 - o Growers are having difficulty accessing information and clarification regarding who is managing the response from the government is needed
 - o Impact on growers: large to small, lack clarity on how government is going to support
- US case surge is leading to stocking up and making supply of US based products even more expensive and difficult to come by
- Rapid growth in online shopping in grocery segments
- All close negative contact requires to isolate in 14 days
 - o Urgent need to find temporary workforce to fill in 2 weeks gaps. Short term replacement workforce needed if anyone can help.

James Maitland

- Significant delay in rail. Canadian retail stabilized. More big purchases and less trips

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

Susan Anzolin

- Airline industry
 - o Air Canada indefinitely suspends Windsor-Montreal flight
 - o Porter extends the suspension of flights to Aug. 31 going out of YQG
- Border
 - o June 29 – Public Health Agency in Canada received increased powers that allows them to ask any questions they want at the border and can be delegated to CBSA officers
 - o In place until Aug 31. Two public health agency officials are assigned in Windsor will be rotating between bridge and tunnel
 - o Border continues to be closed for non-essential travel until July 31, expected to be extended beyond
 - o Proposing a plan to get beyond the 30 day extensions
 - Proposing a home-grown solution for Windsor
 - Talking to a company using blockchain for health passport - stay tuned
 - o Loosened some requirement for truck drivers

- FAST lanes are now going to be available to a greater number of trucks that have met the preferred trusted trader program to facilitate trade between the 2 countries
- Working on a guidebook to help facilitate the movement of business travellers
 - Final comments by the end of this week and it will be posted on WEEDC website
 - Hosting a webinar at the end of July that is open to member of CAMM, CTMA, AA, AUTOBILITY NETWORK ETC.

Hospitality & Tourism – Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island

Gordon Orr

- Advancing take-out Tuesday guide to include patio dining
- TWEPI Office is open
- Marketing ShopYQG opens this week and Staycation starts next week
 - billboards will be going up
- Hon. Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries announced \$182,000 in funding for 5 festivals in W-E region
- \$350,000 in funding was announced for regional tourism for marketing
- TWEPI received \$629,000 grant from FedDev to allow for core business funding in place
- Insurance rates are astronomical
- Will help Justine with a marketing campaign to help promote increased local purchasing

Dharmesh Patel

- Restaurant survey, landlords not letting tenant to parking lot areas
- Hotels are busy, Red Cross has been sending farm workers to Windsor
- Anticipating more leisure travels in wineries

Professional Services & Retail – Windsor Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce

Rakesh Nadu

- First 3 months where retail stands
- 14% drop data collected end of April. Forecast May will go up further
- Rent relief hard to access, 85% say only less than 15% landlords are willing to work with them
- Chamber's input to OCC.
 - 1. Eligibility criteria is very stiff, be lowered drop of 30% revenue
 - 2. Need to be extended beyond July
 - 3. If no urgent relief being provided. Forgiving portion of CEBA should be increased to 50% instead of 25%
 - 4. Give the ability to apply to this program directly by tenant to get 50% relief rather than 0%
- OCC will send feedback from the chamber to the province

Keith Chinnery

- Contest entries continue to rise, keep promoting contest and campaign. Take a picture while shop local.
- New national initiative called "The Big Spend". July 25th through Canada. Make a purchase on a small business of your choice. More info to come. Tie ShopYQG to this initiative.
- <https://thebigspend.com/>

Manufacturing – Canadian Association of Mold Makers

Shelly Fellows

- Launched survey this week. Closing survey on Friday and share results next week.
- Concern of the general economy
 - RBC webinar. Registration: Monday noon July 13th.
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cNsOHSHvQFS1RRgPJVbgnQ
- Health and Safety webinar featuring advice from WSIB and MLTSD. Webinar recording:
<https://canadianassociationofmoldmakers.com/hs-webinar-recording-and-presentations/>

or <https://www.automatecanada.ca/hs-webinar-recording-and-presentations/>

- Working on border webinar focusing on CBSA, dates to be announced next week. Will do a CBP version webinar as well.

Vladimir Franjo

- Allocate \$50,000 from IRAP for Automation of greenhouse
- Help greenhouse get design done by automation companies
- 5 greenhouses to start with, program will be put together within a month.

Yvonne Pilon

- Scale (Back) Up program: \$50,000 cash, looking for 5 companies that had pivoted during the pandemic. i.e. Automation moved to medical etc. Agri-med-tech pivoted companies that are bringing new products to market, looking for new stream of revenue. Deadline end of July. Mandatory IP development program.
- Might be of interest: Nearly 70% of Canadian transport and logistics companies are using outdated tech https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/nearly-70-of-canadian-transport-and-logistics-companies-are-using-outdated-tech/432742?utm_source=DIW&utm_medium=enews&utm_campaign=DIW&scid=09e6ce10-4a85-11ea-aefd-d7cf2a7a9903

Wendy Parsons

- LDCC Community Conversations have been on hold for the last couple of weeks, but this Friday Diane Malenfant, Business Resource Centre, will be providing information on how they are supporting the small business sector and will be able to answer questions. Please register at info@leamingtonchamber.com

City of Windsor

Milan Vujanovic

- The City is looking for solution to protect drivers in buses ie. Retractable driver barrier
- Need local manufacturing to come up with a solution fairly quickly
- Wendy will send that need out to WEEDC mailing list and see who responds.