



**COVID-19 Economic Task Force  
Meeting #5  
AGENDA**

**April 15, 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.**

- 1. 3:15 pm – 3:20 pm**      Remarks from Chair – Stephen MacKenzie
- 2. 3:20 pm - 4:00 pm**      Committee Reports
  - Survey** – 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**      Ongoing Concerns – (all)



**Start at 3:17**

**Stephen MacKenzie** opens the meeting and invites Virginia Wilkinson to speak

**Virginia Wilkinson, Detroit Economic Growth Corporation**

- Ec. Dev. That works directly with the mayor and city of Detroit
- Not a regional view, but does help with some regional partners
- Things are every changing
- City of Detroit and Mayor Duggan
  - o Mayor Duggan – briefing about fiscal year deficit
  - o \$100 – \$150 million deficit for this fiscal year.
  - o \$150-\$200 budget deficit expected next fiscal year
  - o Casinos are \$600,000 per day – that cuts the revenues for the city
- DEGC is private entity
  - o Not expected at this time to directly cut budget
- DEGC Activities
  - o Number of steering committees
  - o Active planning and mitigation
  - o Stabilization of small businesses
  - o Stimulus output
  - o Process of putting out \$4.1 million to Wayne County
    - \$5000 to \$7500 to businesses
  - o Leadership team of DEGC is particularly interested in the Windsor Essex Effort

**Survey**

**Natasha Marar**

- Press release went out
- Press picked up some content

**Justin Falconer**

- Showed where to find [Survey on Site](#)
- Showed TF how to use the dashboard

Steve

- Consider
  - o Data like this is a snapshot for a time period
  - o We can probably consider doing another survey in the coming weeks
  - o Help determine trends
  - o Should there be tweaks

**Agriculture & Agri-Food – Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers**

**Marion Fantetti**

- TFW Program was front of mind
  - o First arrivals are here
  - o Further arrivals are expected in coming week or two
- OGVG
  - o Created a COVID-19 page on website
  - o Information on employers, workers, etc
- Concerns
  - o Migrant workers congregating for services such as finance etc.
  - o List of resources for growers are on-site
- WECHU and OPP have also been assisting with compliance measures
  - o Video has been created in Spanish and English
- OGVG Link was provided last week – [bio.ogvg.com](http://bio.ogvg.com)

- Support Programs and Resources
  - o New program for farmers for expenses for 14 day isolation period
  - o Growers have been waiting for this – up to \$1500 to cover expenses and salaries
- Construction Update
  - o Construction can continue if expected completion is done by October 4, 2020
  - o Provide additional capacity for distribution of food, agribusiness and products
  - o Compliance and other restrictions are needed to be put in place
- Labour Force
  - o Opportunities for workers
  - o People who are looking for work or
  - o Student jobs program - how to develop criteria that better suits students
- Food Processors
  - o New directorate from CFIA (add the link)
- Food processing and Greenhouse sector is as busy as it ever was
- Expected Challenges
  - o Potentially logistics
  - o Is there going to be enough PPE for growers and food processing?
- Haven't hear from many growers citing spoilage
- Business Attraction and Investment Opportunities
  - o There is some interest from international companies that are looking to shorten the supply chain and cut cost of shipping
  - o CBRE market sector could bode well for food processors and manufacturers as JIT are looking to re-shore
  - o Could create an array of opportunities

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

### ***Susan Anzolin***

- Additional members on the committee including: *Virginia Wilkinson, DEGC; Denise Myers, Myers Towing; Carolyn Brown, Windsor Detroit Tunnel Corp.*
- Supply chain – Is it tightening?
  - o Trucking companies – they are doing everything they can to ensure that the goods are still trying to move the product
  - o Loads are going, but they are coming back with empty loads
  - o Drivers are still fearful of COVID-19
    - Vulnerable sector of populations
- Survey Data
  - o 71% of people said there has been a no or moderate impact to move goods
- Media Campaign (Essential Services)
  - o Need to do a better job of celebrating these people as frontline worker heros
  - o Risking own health to move medical equipment and food
  - o CBSA officers have a safe environment – allowing healthcare workers to cross
- Tunnel
  - o Traffic YTD compared to last year is down 88%
  - o Tunnel is not eligible for gov't funding
- WSIB
  - o Continues to be an issue for truckers with high rate of premiums
  - o Nancy Creighton has raise to national and provincial level
  - o Collective voice that the premiums are adversely affecting sectors
  - o Local company
    - \$10,000 Month
    - How are they able to keep the employees on the payroll?
  - o Feed the frontline

- Over \$14,000
- 1000 meals on Tuesday
- Working with local restaurants to support local

### ***Nancy Creighton***

- WSIB
  - CPP and EI employer portion will not be required to be remitted
  - May set precedent for companies that are looking for some relief for WSIB
- Food and Matching
  - OMAFRA
    - Jonker, Mark – database of matching supply and demand who cannot sell the food that is

### **Hospitality & Tourism – Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island**

#### ***Gordon Orr***

- A majority of our operators are closed, or at limited capacity based on staff and interest level. Over half have shut their doors and anticipate reopening in the next 8-12 weeks based on what is legally feasible.
- Tourism Industry Association of Ontario Survey
  - Between April 1<sup>st</sup> through April 8<sup>th</sup>, and the following data was provided from 161 businesses or entities in Southern Ontario:
    - 66% have closed temporarily
    - 43% have laid off staff
    - 28% have reduced services
    - 53% are looking at further staff layoffs
    - 56% are looking at continued business closure
    - 22% may close their businesses permanently
    - 35% may be unable to pay their staff
    - 54% will be looking for federal or provincial funding
- Tourism has been hit first and hardest
- Meeting in 10 days to develop strategy for recovery

#### ***Dharmesh Patel in chat***

- On behalf of Ontario's food and beverage sector, ORHMA is working to obtain support from various third-party delivery service companies as establishments who remain open are facing negative impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak on their business. If your establishment offers delivery/take-out services, we ask that you take a few moments to complete this short questionnaire in order to provide feedback for our advocacy efforts.
- We kindly ask that you complete this questionnaire no later than Thursday April 16th at 11:00 AM.
- <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07eh1copmak91jnzjl/a0118k91qo7pq/questions>
- <https://www.osler.com/en/resources/regulations/2020/canada-emergency-wage-subsidy-a-detailed-review>

### **Professional Services & Retail – Windsor Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce**

#### ***Keith Chinnery***

- WSIB update – tie together with Susan Anzolin
- Gov't Funding Programs
  - Eligibility is the issue
  - What is for who?
  - How quickly can the money be delivered?
- Change today
  - Self-employed workers are now eligible for emergency response
- Part-time or Occasional
  - Ee's need to not work for 14 consecutive days
  - Workers are being called in for a shift here and there but messes with the eligibility
- Coming out the other side – Chris Savard's term (Modified Normal)
  - What does Modified Normal look like?

- 27 days remaining of full closed
- We cannot fully prepare for re-opening until the parameters have been set by gov't
- Perhaps best case from California or NY
- Devonshire Mall- Chris Savard updated
  - Will not be 0-20,000 → Gradual Process
  - Order from Mayor Dickens – malls are open across Canada but not here in Windsor
  - Order is expected to be extended until May 1
- Brian Yeomans
  - Bars and restaurants
  - Liquor inspectors
  - Fire safety
- News Release
  - Pushed out on Friday
- Webinars
  - Wendy Parsons
    - April 16: Nelson Santos – 9am
    - April 17: Arms Bumanlag
    - Last week: Dave Epp
    - Approximately 25 persons per call
  - Chamber of Commerce Upcoming Events
  - <https://business.windsorsexchamber.org/events/calendar>
    - Web geeks on April 27
    - KPMG April 24
    - April 29<sup>th</sup> – Rona Warsch –

#### **75% Wage Subsidy**

- Emergency Benefits Program who earn less than \$1000 and work part time – announced today
- Essentially a Universal Benefits

#### **Vlad Franjo**

- 15% revenue drop
- Almost every company should be covered by
- If you are eligible for March, you will automatically join for April

#### **Marion Fantetti**

- Keep checking on a daily or hourly basis
- Situations change very regularly

#### **Nancy Creighton**

- Tool, Die, Mold Sector
  - PPAP is basically revenues 12-18 months prior
- Accrued or Cash accounting can be used to qualify for the 75%

#### **NRC**

- Posting challenges on Solutions Canada
- POST WEBSITE
- 6 months or longer
- Shows the actual challenge with a lot of details
- It is purchasing scenario, not a funding scenario
- Lots of regional companies working – Windsor has been very active

#### **Manufacturing – Canadian Association of Mold Makers**

##### **Shelly Fellows**

- CAMM/ Automate Canada/ CTMA Survey
  - Survey Results *attached to email*
- Characterise the week?

- Sigh of relief
- Good news this week
- Much more positive numbers than week 3
- Added question
  - Premium for Manufacturing EE's
    - 1/5 have offered some kind of premium
- Programs
- Webinar this afternoon with CMHA
  - How to use resources and tools to help with anxiety and mental health
- Fewer New Programs
- More projects cancelled or delayed
- What is being learned?
  - Increased adoption of technology
  - Collaboration on shop floors
- Medical Equipment
  - Primarily tooling
- Number of closures declined and
- Pessimism
  - Many are feeling that this is going to be going on for over a month

#### **Mike Bilton**

- Finances
  - Finances and Cashflow are now the key issues and are
  - OEMs
    - A lot of products that were supposed to be slated for 2021 are going to be 2021 ½ or 2022
    - They are not selling products
    - Financial Survey modelled
  - Upcoming Finance Survey for Industry
    - Language is proper
    - Subject Matter Experts from board and financial industry
    - Same type of summary will be put together for the financial task forces
- CMHA
  - 1 hour webinar by CMHA
  - Anxiety and Stress
    - If companies are fortunate enough to stay alive
    - People are concerned that can
    - Legislation for people that are

#### **Lear Corp**

- What should employers and employees do to ensure there are clean and safe workplaces

#### **Shelley Fellows**

- Summary Report is being put together
- Recommendations
  - Put together a workshop or webinar for supports available
  - Identify and provide links for
  - Should the entire Task Force
- AMA sessions
  - AMA for every task force

#### **Yvonne Pilon**

- Anxiety is cross sector
- Collaborate as a group
- AMA session on Thursday for industry

## Mental Health

- Windsor CMHA
- On the frontlines
- Some specific examples for manufacturing but this presentation was applicable for all industries

## ***Celso Oliveira, BDC***

- Ball is back in BDC's court
- Working through underwriting
- Got more clarity on SME Loan program - \$6.25 Million funding
  - o National Bank is online
  - o Early next week – others will also come online

## ***Steve MacKenzie***

- Definitely looking at the AMA as a likely scenario
- As we transition (the greater group)
  - o Brainstorming – Scenario Based economic
  - o Local consultant – Design thinking exercises
- How do we best facilitate development of the 'new normal' or 'modified normal'
- Expect to have a draft concept for next weeks meeting
- WE EDC would absorb costs
- Facilitated workshops for what is the new normal
- Companies need to pivot to recognize the change in client or customer behaviour

**End 4:21 pm**

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