

WindsorEssex

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

NOTE: Sandra Papatello, CEO of the WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation was originally scheduled to present to Leamington Council on Monday, January 6, 2014- Due to inclement weather her presentation to Leamington Council was re- scheduled for tonight- Monday, February 3, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 3, 2014

ALL AVENUES INVESTIGATED TO CREATE A FUTURE OPERATION IN THE HEINZ FACILITY AND IN THE REGION

Windsor-Essex County, Ontario - Monday, February 3, 2014 - At Leamington's Council meeting tonight Sandra Papatello, CEO of the WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation provided an update on activities surrounding the Heinz plant closure.

Papatello said, "Since the November 14th announcement we have investigated all avenues to create a future operation in that facility and in the region generally and we will continue to do so as we move forward. Dialogue also continues with all levels of Government such as: the Premier's Office and FedDev, the Provincial Ministries of Rural Affairs, Agriculture, Finance, Economic Development Trade and Employment and Training Colleges and Universities to provide support teams for the Heinz employees to find employment or develop new skills.

Within the first 48 hours of implementing our plans, Premier Wynne responded to our request to provide \$200,000 in funding from the Communities in Transition Fund to help through this difficult time. This funding will help identify the best path forward and pursue new opportunities for growth. Our business retention and expansion team has led the charge by implementing a rapid response plan to address the affected supply chain and identify and perform risk assessment with affected suppliers. This funding has allowed us to engage two people who will be on the ground to work directly with the suppliers in an effort to secure new business opportunities for them."

Papatello also took the opportunity to introduce Mr. Brian Payne who will be working with Heinz's supply chain in an effort to secure new business opportunities for them. Brian Payne has over 20 years' experience in domestic and global supply chains, primarily in the food sector industry. Brian is active in his community of Windsor-Essex where he serves on the Board of Directors of Hotel Dieu Grace Healthcare.

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Brian S. Payne

Brian Payne has over 20 years' experience in domestic and global supply chains, primarily in the food sector industry.

As a graduate of the University of Windsor, Brian began his career in the international trade arena, catering to automotive and heavy manufacturing companies like General Motors, John Deere and NaviStar.

Brian Payne's career led him to work out of Texas, Kentucky and Colorado returning to Toronto, Ontario in 2005 where he headed up the supply chain and regulatory compliance functions for Pizza Pizza Ltd.

Brian is active in his community of Windsor-Essex where he serves on the Board of Directors of Hotel Dieu Grace Healthcare and is an external consultant for the WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation, specializing in supply chain trade issues.