

COVID 19 – Windsor-Essex Economic Task Force
Meeting #1
March 18, 2020

AGENDA

Regional COVID-19 Economic Task Force
Conference Call: 1-877-394-5901
Access #: 8565998#
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

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. 1:00 pm - 1:05 pm** Welcome – Stephen MacKenzie
- 2. 1:05 pm - 1:30 pm** Review of Draft Strategic Document – Susan Anzolin
Feedback and Updates (if any) for programs – (participants with updates)
- 3. 1:30 pm – 1:45 pm** Committee Operations and Communication Structure
Task Force Chair and Secretariat – WE EDC
Membership – Business Facing Organizations (have we missed anyone or organization?)
Sub-Committees: Our initial thoughts for committees and lead organization are as follows:
 - Survey** – (refer to proposed WE EDC website for draft survey) -suggest *Workforce WindsorEssex*
 - Manufacturing** suggest *CAMM*
 - Agriculture and Agri-food** suggest *OGVG*
 - Logistics, Transportation and Cross Border Issues** suggest *IBLS / Windsor Transportation Club*
 - Hospitality & Retail** suggest *WER Chamber*
 - Tourism** suggest *TWEPI*
 - Others?
- 4. 1:45 pm – 2:00 pm** Participant Comments and Next Steps – (all)

Meeting Notes

Start time: 1:04

Welcome Remarks - STEPHEN MACKENZIE (WE EDC)

- Safety and health is the utmost priority in everyone's mind → Health Unit and the municipalities are taking the lead on those measures.
- This task force is to focus on: the economic health and well-being of our region → focus on the mitigation of the negative impact on the region → focus on the communication of measures to mitigate the economic impacts.
- Regional strategy – no pride of ownership. Emphasis to be on coordination and unity of messaging.
- Task Force partners are encouraged to link to or brand the information to best suit the needs of their key constituents.

Review of Strategic Task Force Document - SUSAN ANZOLIN (WE EDC)

- Overview and review of the task force strategic document
 - o The document is modelled after the NAFTA re-negotiation & steel and aluminum tariffs crisis.
- We can look at the impact of China and use China's economy; three main impacts:
 1. Supply Shock
 2. Demand Shock
 3. Confidence Shock
- Task Force will seek to assist regional business community to "Flatten the Valley" of economic downturn.

Task Force Document

- Living document that will be changing on a daily and hourly basis.
 - Need a section on the impact on our economy
 - o Four pillars – each pillar will identify actions
 1. Coordination of region
 2. How to support Businesses
 3. How to support Employees
 4. How to support Communities
 - o JUSTINE TAYLOR (OGVG)
 - More agricultural impact needed to represent that key industry in the working document, for example: How do we ensure that there are adequate workforce in the event that foreign workers cannot enter Canada? How do we tap into that workforce if we cannot get these temporary foreign workers?

Operational and Communications Structure

*WE EDC will act as the Chairing organization of the Windsor Essex COVID-19 Economic Task Force
WE EDC will act as the Secretariat. This includes the compilation and distribution of key messaging to partners throughout the Windsor Essex region.*

Mandate Letter

- o Context – Decision to begin with business facing organizations as Task Force members.

Recommendations for additional organizations

- Local BIA's – perhaps Chair of BIA advisory?
- Commercial Banks – may be added to committee once their role in administration of funds is determined?
- Windsor Construction Association/ Heavy Construction Association – Jim Lyons
- Ontario Restaurant Hotel Motel (ORMA)- Dharmesh Patel
- Arts Council – to be invited to hospitality and tourism committee
- Recreation non-profits – to be represented by Small Business and Entrepreneurship Centre staff on various committees
- Canadian Tool and Machining Association (CTMA) Richard Janik – suggested post call – to be invited as task force member

Committee Structure

Survey

Chair - Workforce WindsorEssex

- **Contact: MICHELLE SUCHIU / JUSTIN FALCONER**
 - o Survey Discussion
 - Tangible impact on the businesses- WFWE conducted surveys during previous crisis. This data was used to create tangible information that was utilized to support policy, development and grant applications.
 - Comments on the survey
 - One coordinated survey from the region
 - Full agreement
 - ANNE CASCADDEN (DETROIT CONSULATE) from Consulate of Detroit
 - Are you in contact with Detroit Regional Chamber/ Detroit Economic Growth Corp?
 - How does the cross border region influence the survey?
 - RAKESH NAIDU (WERCC)
 - Already in conversation with the Detroit Chamber
 - Will share details with this group
 - WE EDC to contact Detroit Economic Growth Corporation (DEGC) to share information.

Manufacturing

Chair – Canadian Association of Mold Makers

- **Contact: DIANE DESLIPPE (CAMM)**

Agriculture and Agri-food

Chair – Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers

- **Contact: DR. JUSTINE TAYLOR (OGVG)**
 - NANCY CREIGHTON will connect with DR. TAYLOR as a sidebar

Logistics Transportation and Cross Border Issues

Chair – Institute for Border Logistics and Supply Chain

- **Contact: SUSAN ANZOLIN (IBLS)**
 - Susan Anzolin has already begun conversations with the Transportation Club of Detroit - equivalent to the Windsor Transportation Club

- Windsor Transportation Club – 150 members
- Amazon – the health requirements for drivers? What is the certification process to ensure that the drivers are not ill
- There is a medical officer at the Ambassador Bridge

Hospitality and Tourism

Chair- Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island

- **Contact: Gordon Orr (TWEPI)**
 - To include arts and culture representative
 - Consider Windsor Eats

Professional Services & Retail

Chair – Windsor Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce

- **Contact: Rakesh Naidu (WERCC)**
 - Will be reviewing and forwarding key information from provincial and national chamber networks.
 - Will coordinate this task force's efforts with the networks.

Next Steps

- Chair for each committee will begin populating committee.
- Task force members – please contact committee chairs to volunteer
- Chairs to report committee members to Secretariat for record keeping
- Secretariat will update website on a daily basis
- Proposed follow up call: each Wednesday at 3:15 pm EST – Meeting notice will be sent to group
- RAKESH NAIDU will be following up with additional notes to Secretariat to distribute to the Task Force
- **Task Force members to review and send suggestions for inclusion for survey.**

Meeting concludes: 2:01 PM