

**COVID-19 Economic Task Force
Meeting #2
AGENDA**

**March 25,
3:15 pm – 4:15 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. **3:15 pm – 3:20 pm** Remarks from Chair – Stephen MacKenzie

2. **3:20 pm - 3:50 pm** Committee Reports
 - Survey** – Workforce Windsor Essex
 - Manufacturing** – Canadian Association of Mold Makers
 - 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

3. **3:50 pm – 3:55 pm** Review Committee Reporting Guideline - Ryan Donally

4. **3:55 pm – 4:15 pm** Ongoing Concerns – (all)

Remarks from Chair

Steve Mackenzie – WE EDC

- General greetings
- Welcoming new members: Jim Lyons – Windsor Construction Association; Bryce Phillips – Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority; Richard Janik – Canadian Tooling & Machining Association; Dharmesh Patel – Ontario Restaurant, Hotel & Motel Association

Committee Reports

Survey Committee

- *Natasha Marar – Small Business & Justin Falconer – Workforce Windsor Essex*
 - o Response
 - 107 Responses
 - 79 Completions
 - Another push to be sent out on March 26th am
- *Diane Deslippe - CAMM & CTMA – survey*
 - o Required response by Noon on 24th
 - o Response manufacturing is done.
- *Yvonne Pilon- WETech*
 - o Tech and CEO Survey going out
 - o Feedback will be provided
- *Keith Chinnery- WERCC*
 - o Chamber is pushing it out

ACTION ITEM- Committee will determine when to close the survey

Manufacturing Committee

- Meeting scheduled every Wednesday morning at 7:30 am
- *Shelly Fellows - CAMM*
 - o Review of Survey ([Results here](#))
 - o Survey will be done on a weekly basis
 - o Baseline of where manufacturers are in the region-
 - o CAMM/Automate - 93 Responses on survey
 - Most from this region
 - 55% are Mold Tool or Die
 - Bulk of companies are small
 - 65% are small companies
 - 2/3 are in self isolation
 - 410 employees are in isolation or quarantine
 - Temporary or Permanent Layoffs – 700 approximately (only 8 permanently)
 - Sales disruption
 - Consistent – many programs have been cancelled or indefinitely delayed
 - Some have new projects and programs – mostly related to medical equipment and supply?
 - What are they worried about?
 - Cashflow issues
 - Employee retention
 - Cancellation of future work
 - o Essential Industry list
 - *Diane Deslippe* - It is up to each company to make their own decision on how to proceed
 - There is a call in line that is extremely busy and hard to reach anyone
 - *Marion Fantetti* will try to create a one pager for companies – one pager

Agriculture and Agri-Food

- *Justine Taylor- Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers*
 - o Concerns:

- Ensuring to access reliable workforce
 - Continued access to Temp Foreign Workers (not officially confirmed)
 - Waiting for protocol document for isolation practices – could this be tied into the hotel?
- Ensuring logistics is being maintained
- Processing and Packaging
 - Absenteeism is becoming an issue

Logistics etc

- *Susan Anzolin – IBL/ Windsor Transportation Club*
 - Essential service and is re-affirmed
 - Trucking companies' revenues are dropping – how do they maintain essential service?
 - Social Campaign to thank a trucker
 - Stigmatism
 - Should we intermingle with a trucker?
 - Truckers are having access to issues with food – Enroutes are staying open, US side is trying to do the same
 - Local
 - Economic Impact Survey is going out to members
 - Push and pull tension
 - Companies revenues are way down, yet they are still considered an essential service
- *Anne Cascadden – Detroit Consulate*
 - Has there be contact with Detroit equivalent?
 - Contact was made as there was attempt for a bi-national event.
 - Integration of issues will continue
- *Bryce Phillips– WDBA*
 - Staff with crossing borer – working with global affairs and infrastructure Canada.
 - Finalizing a letter that can be used for border patrols

Hospitality and Tourism

- *Gordon Orr- TWEPI*
 - [Tourism Association of Ontario Survey](#) – 3400 respondents
 - 35% of businesses laid off
 - 52% closed
 - 47.7% decline
 - 46% fear to pay staff
 - See link for more details
 - Needs
 - Tax relief
 - Wage subsidies
 - Held a joint TWEPI Board of Directors/Tourism Advisory Marketing Committee on Monday and they underscored the immediate decline in tourism and mirrored the sentiment and feelings of the TIAO survey.
 - **Take-Out Tuesday** - allowed for a partnership with Mayor Dilkens/City of Windsor and grew our restaurant list by over 100% once we joined forces and the Mayor augmented and drew attention to our take-out/delivery program list. Support Local.

- Started on Tuesday promoting EPIC wineries new program called **Wine Order Wednesday**. Promoting a list of EPIC wineries where you can order wine and they will deliver to your house.
- This program is a partnership between County of Essex, participating Essex Pelee Island Coast(EPIC) wineries and Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island(EPIC).
- Started on Tuesday a new social media campaign called **#YQGStandStrong**.
 - A campaign designed to promote good news stories; memories of better times and things we will look forward to once self-isolation is lifted.
 - There is contest component to it where weekly we will pick at random one winner for sharing their picture/story.
 - The other meaningful part of this is that regionally it is supported by the following organizations:
 - City of Windsor
 - County of Essex
 - Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island
 - WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation
 - Windsor Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce
 - University of Windsor
 - St. Clair College
 - We-Tech Alliance
 - Workforce Windsor Essex
 - Small Business Centre
- *Dharmesh Patel – Ontario Restaurant Hotel Motel Association*
 - Lots of hotels closed down
 - Larger and luxury hotels have been closing (high operating costs)
 - Minister of Health – looking for floors that are Isolation floors
 - Advocating with Provincial Gov't –
 - Restaurant side has not been covered
 - Rent freezing or eviction freezing
 - Most places have closed and thinking that landlords will kick out.
- *Justine Taylor*
 - Hotel tie-in with incoming temporary foreign workers – potential for 14 day period – off farm

Professional Services & Retail

- *Keith Chinnery- Chamber*
 - Advocating on behalf of small business
 - Member outreach
 - One on one phone calls
 - Recurring themes – appreciating the programs but how to apply
 - Ontario Chamber of Commerce is doing a provincial survey

Additional Speakers

Celso Olivera- BDC

- Extreme amount of inquiry

- BCAPP
 - Phase 1 – 6x increase with referrals
 - Existing
 - 6 month blanket load
 - 3.3% interest rates –
 - Security positions –
 - Working capital support 100k – 2M
 - Focused on key industries
 - Auto
 - EDC- is aerospace
 - Tourism is rolling out soon
 - Oil and Gas –
 - BCAP- up to \$2M

Daniel Biafore- COVID-19 Business Advisory Group

- Working as a 'boots on the ground team' focusing on daily issues relating to all needs in Windsor-Essex
- Team is comprised of medical, manufacturers, hotel/retail, etc.
- 3 key items the team has been working on
 - Ventilator Solutions
 - Hand Sanitizer
 - N95 Masks
- *** Presentation attached to email***

Susan Anzolin - WinHacks

- Major league hackers sponsored
- 530+ around the world
- Digital platform

Yvonne Pilon- WETech

- 3-d Printing
 - Kelcom 3-d is working with Windsor Regional and Hotel Dieu
 - Dave Hall is on retainer for story writing

Meeting End

4:30 pm