

Media Release Friday, May 22, 2015

## LIFE SCIENCES HUB TAKES SHAPE IN WINDSOR-ESSEX, ONTARIO CANADA

Windsor-Essex County, Ontario – Friday, May 22, 2015 - Today, the Windsor-Essex Economic Development Corporation and Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare joined forces by signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to officially launch the cross border **Life Sciences Hub**.

This hub will improve patient care, advance clinical research, increase development of new products, attract high-value trade and investments and create desirable careers in our region. This hub will help us develop the Life Sciences sector in our region by capitalizing on our distinct advantages and strengths.

**Brian Lewis, President and CEO, MEDEC** the national association representing the medical technology industry in Canada said, "I'm thrilled that Windsor-Essex has recognized the immense potential of the medical technology industry to not only contribute to improved patient outcomes, but as an economic driver as well – creating jobs and improving healthcare sustainability. This innovative initiative harnesses the benefits that the region has to offer and we look forward to great things to come out of it."

**Paul Lucas, Chair, Life Sciences Ontario** added, "In a very competitive global environment this is truly a creative way for Canada to grow the Life Sciences sector."

"HDGH is excited to play a key role in bringing new and innovative health technologies to the marketplace that will contribute to a more productive and sustainable health care system and that will change the lives of the patients and families we serve," stated **Janice Kaffer**, **President & CEO**, **Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare** 

Sandra Pupatello, CEO, WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation added, "It takes many partners in the health system to give a company the access it needs to succeed in the Life Sciences sector. The companies that will thrive in the health sciences space are the ones that get access to the health system. This isn't just about the real estate it's about the access to health care that will allow a company to grow...that is the true innovation today. This is unique. The cross-border relationship that we are extending to our companies in this hub simply doesn't exist anywhere else. This is our differentiator."

Our location offers companies access to world-class medical institutions, universities and personnel on both sides of the border enabling them to take advantage of Canada's less stringent regulatory barriers, generous incentives for R&D and the lower cost of doing business. In addition, our region excels in advanced manufacturing and has a highly skilled and educated workforce in the life sciences sector.

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Visit www.choosewindsoressex.com for more information.

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