

Media Release

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## WINDSOR-ESSEX REGION CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WEEK - MAY 6 – 11, 2019

***Windsor-Essex joins communities across Canada and the United States to increase awareness of jobs, career development and programs that enhance and provide local economic impact.***

**Windsor-Essex County, Ontario, May 6, 2019** – Today, the **WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation (WE EDC)** and regional partners including all **municipalities in the Windsor-Essex region**, the **WindsorEssex Small Business Centre (SBC)**, **WEtech Alliance**, **Workforce WindsorEssex (WFWE)**, and the **Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade** launched **Economic Development Week** in the Windsor-Essex region.

This week-long initiative is part of the International Economic Development Week and was created by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) which is the largest professional membership organization for economic developers and is recognized by economic development professionals across Canada and the United States. The goal is to increase awareness of local programs that create jobs, advance career development opportunities and increase the quality of life.

This is the third year of participation by the WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation (WE EDC) in collaboration with the other ecosystem partners and the nine municipalities across the region - Amherstburg, Essex, Kingsville, Lakeshore, LaSalle, Leamington, Pelee Island, Tecumseh and Windsor.

The one survey concept was created by the regional partners to receive feedback from the business community, and to share the aggregated collected data results among all economic development practitioners. Since all participants are using the same survey data they can analyze trends which improves the validation of the information. The data collected helps the city, county and region identify specific issues and challenges faced by Windsor-Essex companies and helps to promote continued collaboration and teamwork among the partners. Through communications and face-to-face meetings, the companies will be encouraged to ‘take the survey’ ([www.surveymonkey.com/r/edw2019](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/edw2019)) that is available to them throughout the entire month of May.

Throughout the week of May 6<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> the partners will feature tools or services relevant to the business community and the survey will be active until the end of May 2019. All activities will be promoted online and through social media accounts of the local economic development agencies. ***See attached backgrounder for more information.***

“The City of Windsor is once again pleased to collaborate in International Economic Development Week. The Business Retention and Expansion (BR&E) survey is one tool that takes the pulse of our local business community and enables us to provide the resources needed to help our businesses grow and become more competitive. I encourage all of our businesses to participate by completing the BR&E survey.”

***-Drew Dilkens, City of Windsor Mayor***

The County of Essex is proud to provide businesses in Windsor-Essex the support and tools they need to thrive and prosper. Businesses can share how we can best help them by taking the BR&E survey and advising us of their challenges and ideas when it comes to economic development. It’s all about communication, collaboration and team work. We want to foster an environment where businesses can innovate, expand and inspire.

***-Gary McNamara, Essex County Warden***

“Since our investment of over \$3Million into our Windsor operations over the last couple of years Dainty Foods continues to grow significantly. Our recruitment plan is currently underway to hire more employees to fill several positions at our Windsor rice mill. It’s our pleasure to participate this year in Economic Development Week and reassuring to know that supporting businesses to grow and succeed is a priority in the Windsor-Essex region.”

**-Richard de Palmas, CEO of Les Aliments Dainty Foods Inc.**

“We are pleased to participate once again in the National Economic Development Week and collaborate with the region’s economic development organizations. It’s our goal to encourage businesses in the region to take the 2019 Business Retention and Expansion survey. This survey is a valuable tool that provides insight into the needs of our local businesses and our role in supporting them to stay successful.

**- Stephen MacKenzie, President and CEO, Windsor Essex Economic Development Corporation**

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**About the WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation:** WE EDC is the region’s lead economic development agency and a dedicated catalyst for business growth and expansion. We attract new businesses to our region, help strengthen existing businesses and support entrepreneurship. WE EDC is supported by the Town of Amherstburg, Town of Essex, Town of Kingsville, Town of Lakeshore, Town of LaSalle, Municipality of Leamington, Pelee Island, Town of Tecumseh, and the City of Windsor. It is responsible for advancing economic development to grow and sustain prosperity in the region.

[www.choosewindsor.essex.com](http://www.choosewindsor.essex.com)

**About International Economic Development Week:** Economic Development Week is an event created by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) to celebrate economic development among communities around the world. The event will occur for the third time from May 6-11, 2019. Communities and organizations can join the celebration by visiting [www.iedconline.org/edw](http://www.iedconline.org/edw).

Official 2019 hashtags are: #EDW2019 #EconDevWeek #QualityofLife

**About the International Economic Development Council:** IEDC is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 5,000 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind. Economic developers promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities, by creating, retaining and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth and provide a stable tax base. [www.iedconline.org](http://www.iedconline.org)