

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**July 25, 2013**

**Windsor-Essex Plans for the Ontario Music Fund Grant Program**  
***Mayor Francis 'Sets the Tone' as Chair of the Music Cluster Development Committee***

**Windsor-Essex County, Ontario, Thursday, July 25, 2013** - The **Hon. Michael Chan, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport** is in Windsor-Essex today visiting with musicians at Jam Space and experiencing firsthand how this facility is a one-stop shop for local musicians and for others that come from outside the region.

The Minister also spoke at a media conference held at the historic Capitol Theatre about the Ontario Music Fund and to further promote the announcement to an audience made up of many interested stakeholders, such as, musicians, businesses that support the music industry, along with cultural groups and associations, young entrepreneurs and the general public. During today's event **Sandra Pupatello, CEO of the WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation** introduced **Mayor Francis** as the **Chair of the Music Cluster Development Committee** and encouraged individuals from the music industry to provide their feedback by contacting **music@investwindsoressex.com**.

"Windsor is home to a vibrant arts and culture scene that is vital to the success of our Government's vision - to position Ontario as a global music capital," said **Minister Michael Chan**. "Through our Live Music Strategy and our Ontario Music Fund, we are strengthening Ontario's music industry in order to create jobs, seize new opportunities for meaningful growth and drive music tourism. Proudly partnering with our talented artists, industry leaders, venues, promoters, and festival and event organizers across the province, we are turning up the volume to put Ontario on the main stage of the global arena."

"We know that by working with the province through this fund, we can make things happen for our region. This fund enables us to better position ourselves to promote this region to companies in the music industry." **added Mayor Eddie Francis**.

"Why would our economic development agency be involved in the music scene or pull together people this afternoon that have music in common?" asked **Sandra Pupatello, Chief Executive Officer** of the **WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation**. "If we can focus a decided effort on our music industry, as other cities have found, it's good for the economy. It's also good for young people. It's a good way to keep young, talented people here and invite others to come here and join in because our music scene is part of our 'cool factor'."

**###**

Media Contact:  
Lana Drouillard, Director, Marketing & Communications  
519 259-9600

Feedback can be sent to: [music@investwindsoressex.com](mailto:music@investwindsoressex.com)

To learn more about the Government of Ontario's Live Music Strategy, click [here](#)