

February 25, 2020

Your Worship, members of Council and Administration:

The Harrow & Colchester South Chamber of Commerce would like to commend the Town of Essex for taking the important step towards the development of a comprehensive Climate Change Adaptation Plan (CCAP), in assisting and developing a long-range municipal plan to adapt to the impacts of climate change. In this effort, the Town reached out to interested citizens and by invitation to stakeholders, including the Harrow & Colchester South Chamber of Commerce (HCSCC) to serve on the Essex Climate Adaptation Team (ECAT).

While the executive of the HCSCC is in unanimous support of the Town's adaption of the ECAT, we must express our most concerning disappointment as not even considered on the administration's recommendation list to the Council striking committee. In a January 6, 2020 email to HCSCC President Tammy Affleck, from Niharika Bandaru, Town of Essex Climate Change Analyst, HCSCC was invited to: *"We have identified the Harrow and Colchester South Chamber of Commerce as an important stakeholder in our community who can help advise the development of the CCAP; as such we are inviting you to represent your organization and consider applying to be a member of the ECAT."*

As reported in the terms of reference and town media release, the Essex Climate Adaptation Team (ECAT) will assist Town staff in developing the CCAP by identifying measures to improve adaptation, reduce vulnerability, enhance community resilience and protect resources while identifying potential cost-savings and *economic opportunities*. The requirements further indicate in the terms of reference and media release that the Town is seeking members for the ECAT who are knowledgeable and interested in climate change impacts and adaptation strategies, as well as representative of a number of local sectors including: *business, infrastructure, health, agriculture, and recreation*. Of which all these sectors are representative of the HCSCC members.

The HCSCC put forward William Baker, Vice President Harrow & Colchester South Chamber of Commerce, supported by the executive to represent HCSCC on the ECAT committee. Mr. Baker a former Councillor for the Town of Essex, former Sr. Policy Assistant in the City of Windsor Mayor's office who has significant municipal experience including representation on the Mayor's Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and has senior executive experience in a variety of public and private sector industries, all identified by the ECAT terms of reference.

Certainly, the HCSCC supports our Mayor's commitment to this ECAT committee as addressed in this following statement in the media release of January 6, 2020: *"As a municipality, we need*

*to draw on the knowledge of **our citizens and stakeholders who know our community best,***
said Mayor Larry Snively. "This is a great chance to work together to help our municipality adapt
and prepare for the impacts of climate change."

For nearly a century, the Harrow & Colchester South Chamber of Commerce has supported economic growth in Harrow, Colchester South and the Town of Essex by advocating for business priorities at Council, various levels of government and the Ontario Chamber of Commerce on behalf of our diverse members representing: business, infrastructure, manufacturing, health, agriculture, tourism and recreation.

As Harrow, Colchester South's business advocate, we do applaud the Town of Essex for the support you have provided to HCSCC on many initiatives and your focus for a Climate Change Adaptation Plan. However, in this regard, we are deeply disappointed that the voice of business for our members will not be represented on the ECAT committee.

Respectfully submitted,



Tammy Affleck
President, Harrow & Colchester South Chamber of Commerce