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NEWS RELEASE

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CHAMBER HEARS INTELLIGENT SECURITY CAN ENABLE TRADE

Windsor, Ontario – Windsor & District Chamber of Commerce representatives met with Michael Kergin, Ontario Premier's Special Advisor on border management. Mr. Kergin was on a fact-finding mission, engaging local stakeholders in discussions on the impact of international trade on economic development as it relates to border management. Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty enlisted Mr. Kergin, former Canadian Ambassador to the United States, to accelerate improvements along the gateway to the Windsor-Detroit border.

Mr. Kergin heard Chamber representatives stress the importance of the Windsor-Detroit corridor as the umbilical cord for trade and tourism. In fact, representatives stressed the intricate link between border management and economic development. Among the topics were the new U.S. passport requirements, the improvements to the physical border infrastructure and technological solutions that will increase border efficiency at the Windsor-Detroit border crossings.

The Chamber reiterated its concern that too many departments at the federal level have ownership without authority to lead the border file. Mr. Kergin defined his role as a facilitator maintaining government interaction while engaging stakeholders. The Chamber stated that to achieve this goal, emphasis should be on better communications between all affected parties.

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As the "Voice of Business," the Windsor & District Chamber of Commerce represents over 1,400 business members who collectively employ more than 80,000 people. Our membership profile truly represents a cross-section of the business interests in our community. We actively work with government to ensure the business and investment climate in our region remains competitive and believe that any issues that restrict our ability to attract new business or expand existing business must be resolved.

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