



Prince Edward County Chamber of Commerce

Promoting Business & Civic Pride in the County since 1905

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prince Edward County - On May 4, 2019, Prince Edward County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Lesley Lavender attended the Ontario Chamber of Commerce AGM, where she supported colleague Rakesh Naidu, Windsor-Essex Region Chamber of Commerce President & CEO, as he defended the previously submitted policy resolution: *Changes to Alcohol Retail in Ontario Needs to Support Local Industry and Jobs in the Wine and Grape Sector*. The resolution received 100% support from the OCC delegates.

The resolution addresses the following key issues:

- Eliminating the 35% import tax;
- Eliminating the 6.1% retail store tax on domestically produced wine;
- Ensure direct delivery of all Ontario wine to new retail opportunities; and
- Not trading the current retail monopoly for a grocery led oligopoly.

“I am delighted that the resolution was adopted by the OCC. The unanimous support highlights the importance of this issue for our province. The resolution seeks to provide much needed support to grape growers and wineries so that they can compete with foreign brands. It is a step forward towards reducing tax burden which will help the industry grow and create more jobs thus helping diversification efforts in our region” stated Naidu.

“The long-term implications of growth and prosperity for the businesses in our community is important, not only for the wine and grape sector. We know that this industry has been driving a lot of growth and creating a lot of jobs in Prince Edward County, and we want that to continue. We believe there are components for small private retailers to benefit as well,” said Lesley Lavender.

Co-sponsors for the resolution included: Leamington Chamber of Commerce, Prince Edward County Chamber of Commerce, Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce, and Grimsby Chamber of Commerce.

To read the full version of the resolution, please visit www.windsorsexchamber.org – news – chamber news.

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