

April 8, 2010

Municipality of Chatham-Kent
315 King St. W.
Chatham, Ontario
N7M 5K8

Attention: Mayor Hope and Council

Dear Mayor and Council:

The Board of Directors of the Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce has been a strong proponent in supporting the need for a conference centre facility in Chatham-Kent. The Board of Directors has previously supported, in principle, the proposal brought forward by the Bradley family to Chatham-Kent Municipal Council approximately one year ago.

Since that time, several proposals and options have been brought forth to Council. With that, considerable time has been invested by our organization in review of the various proposals and the considerations included in each.

At this time, I am reconfirming the Board of Directors support of the Bradley option on Richmond Street for the reasons stated in our letter of May 21, 2009. To reaffirm, the logistics of this site complements many of the amenities a prosperous conference centre would require. Lodging, restaurants, shopping and ease of accessibility all enhance the opportunities that a conference centre can create.

Although it is noted the progressive options in the various proposals, there are a number of other factors to consider in addition to those as mentioned above, such as overall costs, timing and the use of rural land, to suggest a few. We view this option as a sensible secondary use of an existing building. As a Conference Centre, in our opinion, the strengths of the Richmond Street proposal provide the advantage to our community and fellow businesses. Additionally, we propose that the Conference Centre is leased and/or privately managed by a secondary party in an agreement with the Municipality.

In our opinion, we also believed that the various proposals were much different and provided a mix of services. The need of additional arena space is a reality in Chatham-Kent, however, we suggest these items be reviewed as a separate cases as the requirements of a conference centre and arenas are distinct in nature of their use.

I trust you will find our input of value and, as always, look forward to working with the Municipality to enhance the economic opportunities of Chatham-Kent for its citizens and business community.

Yours truly,

G.A (Gail) Antaya
President and CEO