FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Chatham-Kent Chamber Congratulates Mayor-elect and Council, Looks Ahead to Partnership and Shared Prosperity

Chamber's purpose and strategic priorities guide its commitment to working with municipal leadership and supporting informed decisions.

CHATHAM-KENT, ON — The Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce congratulates **Mayor-elect Michael Bondy and all newly elected and returning councillors** following the October 26 municipal election. The Chamber looks forward to a constructive working relationship focused on business success, community well-being and lasting prosperity across Chatham-Kent's urban and rural communities.

"Congratulations to everyone elected, and thank you for accepting the responsibility of serving our communities," said **Amanda Clark, Chair of the Chamber's Board of Directors**. "The opportunity now is to bring different perspectives together, establish shared priorities and build a future in which businesses and residents can thrive. The Chamber is ready to contribute."

That commitment reflects the Chamber's purpose: cultivating a thriving business ecosystem through collaboration, helping members pursue new opportunities and contribute to community prosperity for generations to come. Its strategic pillars—**Engage, Empower, Inspire and Impact**—provide the foundation for this work.

In the coming term, the Chamber will seek to **engage** businesses and community partners in meaningful dialogue, **empower** informed decisions through evidence and advocacy, **inspire** collaboration and innovation, and pursue **impact** through practical progress and measurable results.

The Chamber will bring forward the perspectives of employers, entrepreneurs, agricultural enterprises and not-for-profit organizations. Its contribution will include identifying barriers to investment and growth, connecting partners and supporting coordinated advocacy with provincial and federal governments.

"Prosperity is a shared achievement. Council, businesses, workers and community organizations each have responsibilities, and progress depends on how well we work together," said **Rory**

Ring, President & CEO. “We look forward to an open relationship with the incoming Council—one where we can exchange ideas, respectfully examine difficult choices and help turn priorities into results.”

A reference beyond Election Day

The Chamber’s **Municipal Election Information Series**, distributed directly to candidates beginning August 14 and throughout the campaign, will remain publicly available as a reference for Council, businesses, residents and community organizations.

The briefings connect municipal governance, budgets, taxation and infrastructure with economic development, agriculture, tourism, workforce, housing, affordability and quality of life. The community-safety briefing also emphasizes protecting people without housing while addressing the concerns of surrounding residents, employees and businesses

The Chamber encourages Council to consider the resources alongside municipal. staff reports, professional advice, public input and current information. They are intended to support—not replace—Council’s judgment by helping examine the wider consequences of decisions: **What will this enable? Who benefits? How will it be funded? What are the trade-offs? How will success be measured?**

The series’ theme, **“CHANGE is just a slogan? Leadership is the work,”** was an invitation to connect ideas with practical delivery, not an endorsement of any candidate or a call to retain or replace elected leadership. That emphasis on understanding, collaboration and accountability remains relevant throughout the coming term.

The Chamber also thanks all candidates, campaign volunteers and election workers for their contributions to the democratic process, and acknowledges outgoing members of Council for their service.

Council members, residents and community partners are encouraged to visit the Chamber’s 2026 Municipal Election Resources webpage and use the briefings to support informed discussion and constructive action.

Creating prosperity today, for generations to come.

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Media contact
Rory Ring, President & CEO
Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce
519-352-7540, ext. 2213
rory@chatham-kentchamber.ca