

**From:** Gail Hundt, Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce <[gail@chatham-kentchamber.ca](mailto:gail@chatham-kentchamber.ca)>  
**Sent:** November 23, 2020 3:00 PM  
**Subject:** Council Agenda Item - Tax Rate Modernization and Area Charges

Dear Mayor and Council:

As the local Voice of Business, representing 350 Chatham-Kent businesses of all sectors, we truly appreciate the purpose of the Tax Rate Modernization and Area Charges. We know this will benefit some businesses, others will not realize such advantage, while, others will pay for such. As we recently stated, we recognize the need for a fair tax system overall. At a time when the COVID-19 pandemic has disadvantaged many businesses, we encourage Council to implement a fair tax base to all sectors while, at the same time, Council ensures a fair allocation of the tax revenue generated when making investment decisions throughout Chatham-Kent.

We recognize the intent of the modernization of tax rates and area charges and the challenges you will need to debate as Mayor and Council. There is caution to be taken when approaching which taxpayer will pay for ANY service and/or upgrade and to what degree they would be responsible for such costs. To take this further towards the future, we note the numerous tax rates that are applied in Chatham-Kent and the variance of rates that need be addressed. Sectors across the board are taxed at varying levels based on footprint. What we propose is a full review to bring Chatham-Kent into one cohesive municipality, treating taxpayers equally and streamline services accordingly. Debating of one taxpayer over another is not productive when our greatest challenge is prosperity and growth.

Again, we encourage a fair tax base that provides a more competitive field in attracting economic growth to our municipality which will, in turn, benefit all taxpayers of Chatham-Kent through the added revenues and opportunities of adding more businesses and residents to carry tax burdens.

We recognize the challenges put on many at the present time and trust that we are all in this together.

Yours in Prosperity, Gail

*Gail A.B. Hundt* / President & CEO / Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce