

NORTHUMBERLAND CENTRAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

TOWN OF COBOURG · HAMILTON TOWNSHIP · ALNWICK/HALDIMAND TOWNSHIP

For Immediate Release

NCCofC Policy Resolution Gains Provincial Support

Oakville - April 30, 2016: During Policy Resolution Debates at the Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) this past weekend, a proposal authored by the Northumberland Central Chamber of Commerce (NCCofC) and presented by the organization’s President & CEO Kevin Ward was approved by the membership and will now go on to help shape the provincial Chamber’s advocacy agenda for the coming year. The newly adopted Policy Resolution encourages the Provincial Government to demonstrate its continued support for agribusiness by increasing access to the Risk Management Program (RMP) first introduced over 5 years ago.

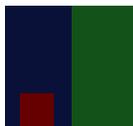
“It has been demonstrated that access to risk management tools such as the RMP can be a deciding factor in whether or not to continue farming,” said Mr. Ward. *“A cap that was imposed in 2012 has not only limited that access, it has undermined the confidence of producers and is a contributing factor in the ongoing and permanent loss of over 125,000 acres of prime Ontario farmland annually”* he explained.

NCCofC President and CEO Kevin Ward participated in the four day event in Oakville, one of the most significant opportunities for Chamber leaders from across the province to come together to network with peers and debate policy issues that are of importance to the Ontario business community. This is the second consecutive year that Mr. Ward has been awarded a full bursary, enabling him to represent the specific interests of the Northumberland Central business community at the provincial level at no cost to the local membership. He was also one of two recipients nationally to be awarded a bursary for the 2015 Canadian Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting and Convention.

“It’s very exciting for a smaller, rural Chamber to be engaged in business advocacy at this level” said Rick Riley, Chair of the Board of the NCCofC, *“we are very pleased that Kevin not only had the opportunity to present a rural issue that is of significant importance to our local economy, but that his presentation obviously convinced the delegates that it’s a relevant issue for the provincial economy.”*

The news was also welcomed by Eric Schwindt, Chair of the Ontario Agriculture Sustainability Coalition (OASC). *“The Ontario Chamber of Commerce is Ontario’s preeminent business advocate, and gaining their support is a significant step forward in our efforts to have the provincial government increase the restrictive cap imposed on the Risk Management Program (RMP)”* said Mr. Schwindt. *“The Beef Farmers of Ontario, Grain Farmers of Ontario, Ontario Pork, Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency and The Veal Farmers of Ontario all extend their sincere appreciation to the Northumberland Central Chamber of Commerce”* continued Mr. Schwindt, *“the NCCofC’s initiative to champion this cause and earn the support of OCC members demonstrates the Cobourg based business organization’s understanding of and commitment to agribusiness in Northumberland County and beyond.”*

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