



MEDIA RELEASE

ONTARIO CHAMBER CRANKS UP FIGHT FOR FAIRNESS - PROVIDES VOTERS DIRECT MAIL TO LEADERS

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Sarnia: Ontario voters no longer have to wait for voting day to send a clear message to federal party leaders about the lack of fairness in federal funding for the province. The Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) and the Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce have just made it much more immediate and easier with the launch of a grassroots campaign called **ActNowForOntario.com**.

"Federal funding for vital services is not distributed fairly in this country. This is an issue that affects every man, woman and child in Ontario," explains Len Crispino, President & CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. "It affects every person who uses healthcare services, who accesses training or unemployment insurance, who arrives as a new Canadian in Ontario, who drives on our roads or takes our transit, who votes for a federal representative."

"**ActNowForOntario.com** gives people in every community in this province including Sarnia Lambton a chance to send a very strong and clear message that Ontario can no longer afford to subsidize services in other parts of the country at a level higher than our own," David McPhail, Chair, Board of Directors, Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce.

ActNowForOntario.com provides compelling testimony to the unfair level of federal funding and federal representation for Ontario and how it directly affects every Ontarian. Facts are provided in videos on five issues: healthcare, unemployment insurance, immigration, representation and infrastructure. Each video ends with an invitation to endorse an email message to all the federal party leaders.

Samples:

FACT: Ontario gets 700-million less than its fair share in federal healthcare funding each year.

FACT: With that - we could hire 14-thousand more full-time nurses.

FACT: Federal infrastructure funding for Ontario falls 1 billion short of fairness.

FACT: A billion dollars would build a 4 lane highway from Sudbury to Toronto.

"Ontarians have always put Canada first and we're not asking them to do any different now," adds Crispino. "The fact is that as long as Ontario continues to receive less federal funding than its fair share, it will continue to weaken, roads will continue to deteriorate, and vital services important both for quality of life and for the attraction of business investment, will continue to suffer. As the economic engine of this country, it's simple: A strong Canada needs a strong Ontario."

An open letter demanding fairness for Ontario has been sent to all five federal party leaders and the Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce is joining the OCC in gathering allies from across the province to raise awareness about the grassroots campaign.

Crispino emphasizes, “For too long Ontario has shouldered more than its share. It’s time to Act Now for Ontario.”

The campaign can be found at www.actnowforontario.com

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The OCC represents over 60,000 businesses through 160 local Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade, and has been Ontario’s business advocate since 1911. Its advocacy and policy initiatives focus on six areas key to the economic well-being of the province: health; education; energy; finance & taxation; transportation & infrastructure; and border issues.

For further information:

Amy Terrill W: (416) 482-5222, ext. 241; C: (416) 605-8205; amyterrill@occ.on.ca

Garry McDonald, President, Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce 519-336-2400