

April 15, 2009



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Hon. Jim Bradley  
Minister of Transportation  
Ferguson Block, 3rd Floor  
77 Wellesley St W  
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8

Re: Enhanced Driver's Licence Locations

Dear Minister,

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce. Our Chamber has a membership of close to 1000 businesses that employ over 19,000 persons in our community. We remain most concerned with the decision that Sarnia Lambton will NOT be an access location for the enhanced driver's licence (EDL) soon to be available in Ontario.

As you are aware, our community has one of Ontario's and Canada's busiest border crossings, the Blue Water Bridges. Learning the eight EDL locations that you have selected (Sault Ste. Marie, Windsor, St. Catharines, Toronto, Ottawa, Kingston, Cornwall and Thunder Bay), our President, Garry McDonald, has recently expressed to your Chief of Staff that we remain concerned that our market potential for this new driver's licence is being overlooked. We were pleased to learn that we may be considered in a second round of locations should provincial demand prove strong. However, being number nine is not very satisfying for the many Ontarians here wanting this card.

With the considerable cross-border day trips that occur in our community, compared to the alternatives, easy access to an enhanced driver's licence has great appeal to local Ontarians. Indeed, when the federal government runs the full page newspaper ad about preparing for the June 1 WHTI implementation, the local drivers and vehicle issuing office is overrun with consumers asking for applications for the EDL.

We have been told, that due to the interview process part of the card application, there are additional costs to the Ministry to roll-out of the EDL. You have reduced the locations to eight for this reason. As the only border crossing not part of the summer EDL roll-out, can we discuss a creative solution to this cost barrier and locate an office in our community now? As an example, in a week perhaps, Sarnia and Windsor could be staffed 2 days and 3 days respectively.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Les McDermott".

Les McDermott, Chair  
Board of Directors

cc Bob Bailey, MPP Sarnia Lambton  
Maria Van Bommel, MPP Lambton Kent Middlesex  
Mayor Mike Bradley, Sarnia  
Mayor Dick Kirkland, Village of Point Edward  
Warden Jim Burns, County of Lambton