

IREK KUSMIERCZYK

Member of Parliament, Windsor-Tecumseh



IN THIS ISSUE

MESSAGE FROM YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

MINISTERS IN YQG MEETING LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

\$1.5 BILLION INVESTMENT IN SKILLS TRAINING

WEEK IN HIGHLIGHTS

A MESSAGE FROM MP IREK KUSMIERCZYK

Last week proved once again that good collaboration is the foundation of success for Windsor-Tecumseh as we announced our Government tabled a bill to legalize Single Sports Betting. This legislation is about protecting the 2,500 good paying jobs at Caesars Windsor and about giving our hurting tourism sector a much needed boost.

Single Sports Betting was a pledge we made my very first day on the job, and it is one I am proud to deliver for our community in partnership with local stakeholders who have worked hard to bring this day forward.

At the same time, we know that great things happen when residents step up. That is why I was proud to participate in the Drive Thru Donation Holiday Event organized by **Team Goran** at REMAX Real Estate that accepted toy donations in support of the Children's Aid Society.

It is remarkable what we can accomplish together when we all step and work together.

Stay strong, stay safe and stay united.

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Minister Monsef meets with Women Entrepreneurs

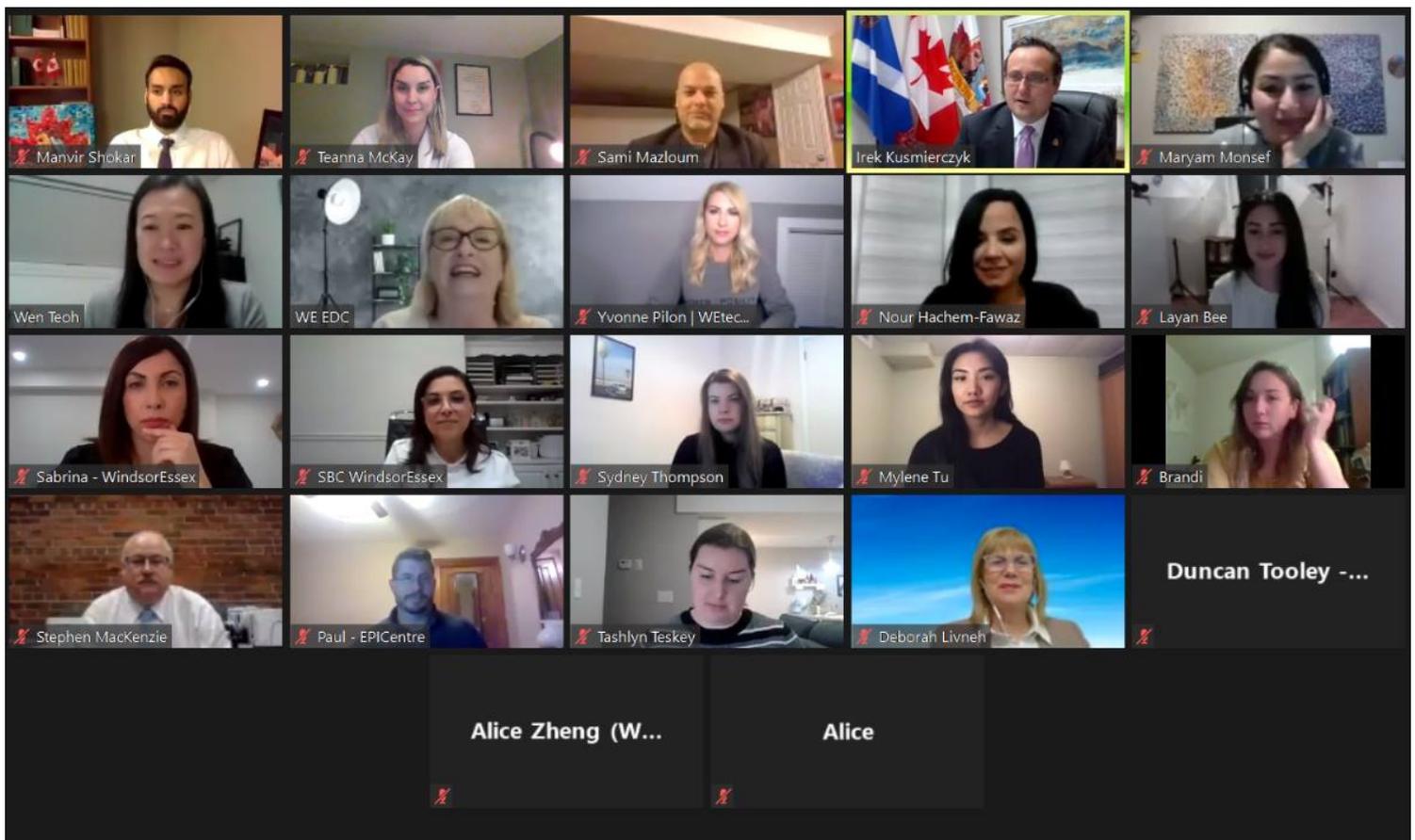
It was a pleasure to welcome **Minister Maryam Monsef to Windsor- Tecumseh** for a groundbreaking conversation with an inspiring group of women leaders and entrepreneurs in Windsor-Essex.

It was an incredible opportunity for women from our community to share their successes and challenges with Canada's **Minister of Women and Gender Equality**. The testimonials were outstanding and inspiring. We heard about the progress that has been made with the Women Entrepreneurship Strategy in Windsor-Essex and what further support is required to build on those successes.

Thank you to all attendees and panelists **Rise WindsorEssex, Workforce WindsorEssex Build a Dream, EPICentre UWindsor, WEtech Alliance, WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation, WindsorEssex Small Business Centre, Ground Culture and Lumaki Labs.**

You are all an inspiration. Thank you for your leadership and all your hard work - advocating and lifting women entrepreneurs in our community.

The message from our government to all women entrepreneurs in Windsor-Essex is clear - **We've got your back.**



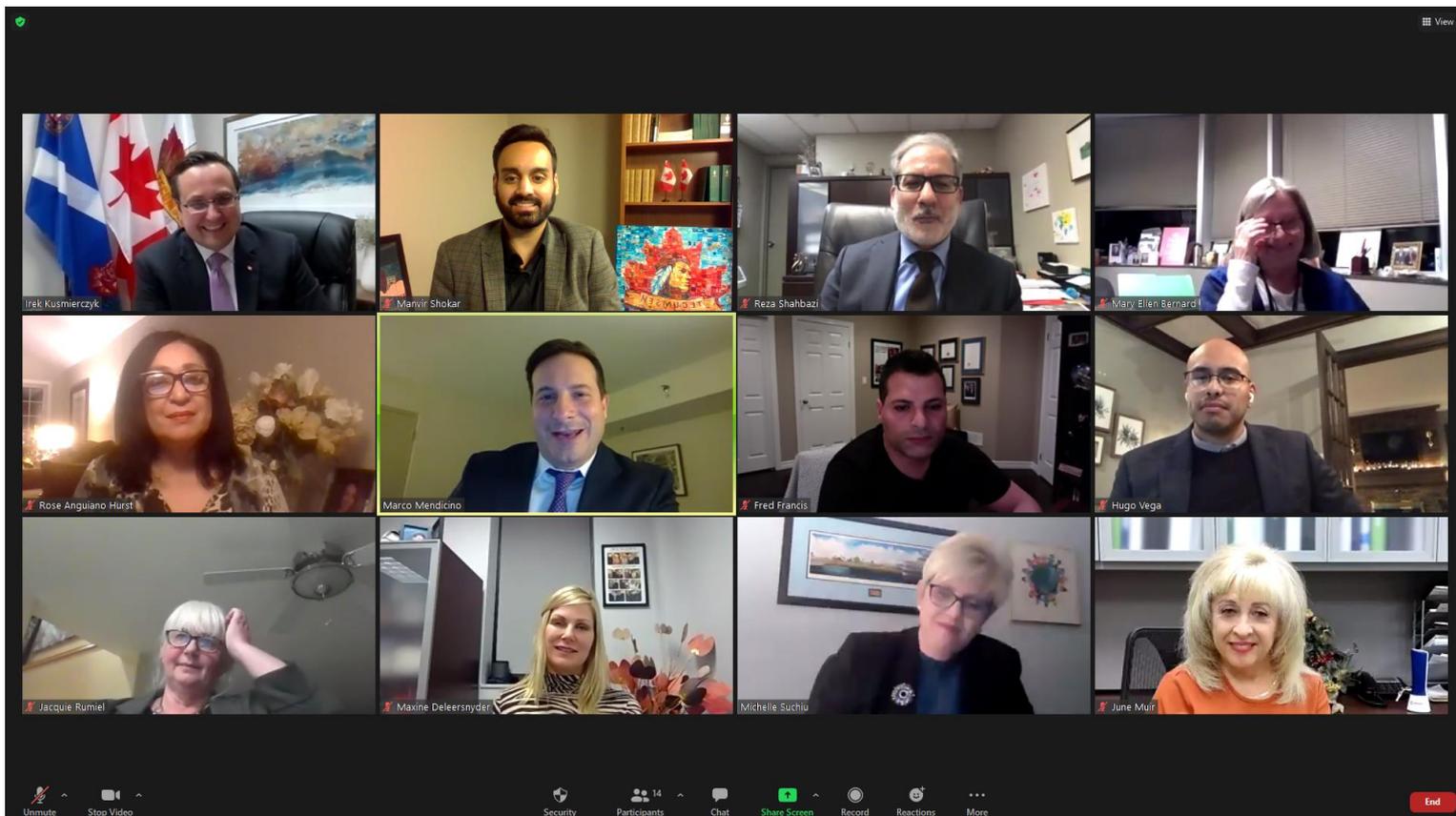
Minister Mendicino Immigration Roundtable

I was delighted to host the **Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Marco Mendicino** in Windsor-Tecumseh for an incredibly important conversation about the state of immigration in Windsor-Essex.

Minister Mendicino is no stranger to the region, he received his law degree from the University of Windsor and his wife Diana is a fellow Windsorite.

The Minister heard from many local stakeholders and community leaders about the unique challenges and opportunities in our region. The discussion was engaging and touched upon many dimensions of immigration - family reunification, international students, migrant workers, anti-racism, translation services and modernizing IRCC processes among other topics.

I would like to thank all of the attendees who joined us, from **City of Windsor, The Unemployed Help Centre of Windsor, The Multicultural Council of Windsor-Essex, Women's Enterprise Skills Training of Windsor, The New Canadians' Centre of Excellence, The YMCA of Southwestern Ontario and Workforce WindsorEssex**, who asked questions and provided tremendous insight.



\$1.5 Billion invested in Skills Training

The **Prime Minister** and I heard clearly during the roundtable with local workers and labour leaders that investment in our skilled trades and skills training is critical to the prosperity of Canada and our region of Windsor-Essex.

The **\$1.5 billion** investment by the federal government will give residents in our community access to skills training, financial assistance, employment counselling and job opportunities so that they can get the support and tools they need to find good jobs, grow in their careers and succeed as the economy recovers.

We're investing in programs that will **provide you job training, help you re-skill for a new career, or find work.**



Emergency Rent Subsidy

Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy Applications Open Today!

- ✓ Covers up to **65% of rent** for businesses, charities and non-profits impacted by COVID-19
- ✓ Can provide **Lockdown Support** of an additional 25% during a public health lockdown order
- ✓ Funding goes **directly to organisations**, not landlords.

Businesses can now apply for the new **Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS)**, which would help **cover up to 65 per cent of the rent** for businesses who've been hard hit by the pandemic.

The new Lockdown Support will also provide an additional 25 per cent for those who have been subject to a lockdown under a mandatory public health order. The application process is straightforward, easy-to-access, and most importantly, funding will go directly to businesses – not to landlords.

This will protect jobs in Windsor-Tecumseh and help our neighbourhood corner stores, local restaurants, and clothing boutiques keep their employees on the payroll and their doors open. Our government is going to be there for whatever it takes to support businesses and keep Canadians working.

Highlights of the Week

Migrant Worker Community Program



Such a beautiful surprise to receive a visit and thoughtful certificate from my friend **Martin Varela - Board Chair of the Migrant Worker Community Program.**

Over the past year I have gotten to know the hardworking group of people who tirelessly advocate on behalf of the migrant workers in our community and it is an honour to work side by side with them to promote and celebrate the contributions they make to our region.

Order of Canada

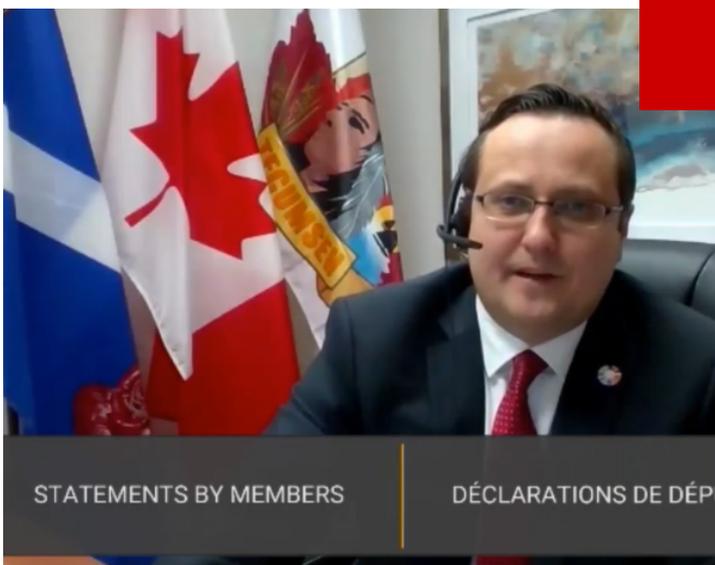
Congratulations to **Dr. Hoda ElMaraghy** from the **University of Windsor** on her appointment to the **Order of Canada** for her contributions to the field of mechanical engineering and her work in advancing manufacturing systems in Canada and abroad.



Be a Santa to a Senior

I was proud to rise in the House of Commons to highlight the Be a Santa to a Senior program.

I encourage residents of Windsor-Essex to reach out to **Home Instead Senior Care** in Tecumseh and sign up to spread some holiday cheer to our seniors by donating a small gift item for Santa Claus to deliver.



Single Sports Betting Legislation

ICYMI: I invite you to read my remarks from the official press conference with Minister David Lametti after formally tabling the Single Sports Betting legislation:

One of the very first meetings I had as a rookie MP was with **Minister Lametti** on this very file of single sports betting. His openness to listen and to lead is a big reason why we are here this morning. And so I want to begin by thanking Minister Lametti on behalf of all the constituents of Windsor-Tecumseh and Essex County.

I also want to recognize my colleagues **MP Vance Badawey** and **MP Chris Bittle** – they have been in this fight as MPs way longer than I have and they have been tireless champions for this legislation and for their communities. They have also been mentors and role models to first year MPs like myself, which is something that I personally appreciate.

There have been many people who have advocated hard for this day in Windsor-Essex – as it really was a true team effort. And here I want to acknowledge the work of my predecessor **Joe Comartin** on this file and my colleague **MP Brian Masse** – who have worked hard for ten years raising this issue.

I also want to take a moment to thank **Dave Cassidy** – the president of our local UNIFOR 444 – and I also want to thank **Dana Dunphy** who is the UNIFOR local 444 Unit Chair at Caesars Windsor.

We organized a meeting with the **Prime Minister** and local workers and labour leaders about two weeks ago and Dana talked very passionately and very eloquently about the tremendous pain that Caesars Windsor workers and their families have gone through during COVID19.

Less than 10 per cent are back at work. Dana also talked about the importance of Single Sports Betting to Caesars Windsor and its 2,500 workers.

And so this announcement is for Dana and **for the 2,500 workers at Caesars Windsor**. Today is about them.

The legalization of Single Sports Betting will help keep Caesars Windsor competitive – especially against American competition a stone's throw away – and it will help protect these vital jobs in our community, while at the same time introducing responsible gaming. Today is a very good day.

A Special Thank You

On Sunday November 22nd, I celebrated the anniversary of my official swearing in as MP - and I am thinking of all the family, friends and teammates that have encouraged and supported me along the way.

There is simply no way any of this is possible without you, and I count each and every one of you as a blessing knowing that you've got my back.

Thank you.



We Are Here to Help



HAVE A QUESTION OR CONCERN?

Let us help you find the right answer and navigate federal programs, services and agencies, including:

- **Canada Revenue Agency:** Canada Child Benefit (CCB), tax inquiries
- **Service Canada:** Employment Insurance (EI), Canada Pension Plan (CCP), Old Age Security (OAS)
- **Immigration and Citizenship:** Passport Canada, Permanent Residency, Family Sponsorship
- **COVID-19 Support:** Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB), Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)

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