

POST SECONDARY EDUCATION TASK FORCE



Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce • Canada's Technology Triangle Inc.
Cambridge Chamber of Commerce • Communitech Technology Association

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ATS Automation Tooling Systems

Toyota Motor Mfg Canada

Polymer Technologies Inc.

Ryobi Canada Ltd

Communitech

MPP – Kitchener Centre



2003 PROSPERITY FORUM DIRECTION



Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce • Canada's Technology Triangle Inc.
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Strengthen local post secondary institutions in size, quality, and impact to attract and keep highly talented people.



OBSERVATIONS



Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce • Canada's Technology Triangle Inc.
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- There is a strong desire by industry and academia to support the initial recommendations of the Prosperity Council (with small modifications and some additions)
- The actions and policies of the Ontario Government have made successful development of post secondary education very difficult (priority has been placed elsewhere, primarily healthcare)
- The Ontario Government expects the Rae Review to identify key policy changes and will likely act on them



CONCLUSIONS



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- There is a need to advocate in a vigorous and concerted manner with Government to force changes that are necessary to protect and enhance PSE in this community
- The community itself needs to take action independently of any potential Government policy changes i.e. we must take responsibility for and act upon the things that are within our own control



RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1) Create a joint vision

- A.** Agree on actions that are necessary to improve PSE and training in the community.
- B.** UW, WLU and Conestoga to develop 10-year vision statements which begin the process of describing and actioning those ambitions.

General Thrusts:

- Initiatives to increase student enrolment, breadth of courses, offerings in unique / distinctive courses; bricks and mortar capacity, including student Accommodation.
- Specific target areas including nanotechnology; quantum computing; pharmacy; health sciences; engineering technology and business.
- More co-op programs and placements; more graduates with skills training; more apprenticeship programs; more integration among courses; more co-ordination and planning between institutions with a push for entrepreneurship and innovation.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS



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2) Advocate for change in Government Policy

- A.** Ensure that there is a coordinated representation to the Rae Review on Post Secondary Education including a well written submission to the Rae Review, emphasizing local proclivity to action.
- B.** Encourage literacy and numeracy in high schools (40% of students don't enter the PSE system).
- C.** Educate students and parents more successfully about practical choices in PSE (96% still expect university degree).
- D.** Encourage federal government to adjust immigration policy to encourage skilled and educated entrants, easing restrictions on the recognition of qualifications and providing funds to enable transitional training.



RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

3) Gather more data to focus ongoing actions

- A. Get input from the Prosperity Council's Health Task Force on its needs from PSE.
- B. Get industry to describe what is necessary to maintain competitiveness and prosperity in the future.
- C. Determine the role of SMEs with respect to the prosperity gap.
- D. Collect data regarding training in this community, benchmark against global competitors and act to close gaps.