Q2 2026 REPORT

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES IN WINDSOR-ESSEX

Quarterly reports are provided to funders, stakeholders and the general public and are posted on the corporation's website, **investwindsoressex.com**

INVEST WINDSOR ESSEX

Message from the Chief Executive Officer

The second quarter of 2026 reinforced what we know to be true about Windsor-Essex: our region continues to adapt, innovate and position itself for long-term success despite ongoing economic uncertainty.

This quarter, we continued to build momentum across several strategic priorities. Our Investment Attraction team advanced opportunities in key growth sectors, welcoming international delegations and supporting projects that reinforce our position in electric vehicle manufacturing, battery recycling, food processing and logistics. The announcement of Pantos Logistics' Canadian hub in Windsor is another example of how global companies continue to recognize the strategic value of our region and the expertise and talent available through our diverse advanced manufacturing ecosystem.

Supporting our existing businesses remains equally important. Through initiatives such as the Advanced Manufacturing Roadshow, Buy Canadian information sessions and the Defence Shift conference, Invest WindsorEssex worked alongside government and industry partners to help local manufacturers explore export diversification, supply chain opportunities and emerging markets, including Canada's growing defence sector.

Entrepreneurship also continued to thrive throughout the quarter. The Small Business & Entrepreneurship Centre welcomed a new cohort of Summer Company participants and expanded the Digital Accelerator Program, helping local entrepreneurs strengthen their digital capabilities, embrace new technologies and build resilient businesses prepared for long-term growth.

This quarter highlighted the importance of collaboration. Whether celebrating Economic Development Week alongside our municipal partners, participating in provincial and national industry events, or promoting Windsor-Essex through strategic marketing initiatives, every success reflects the strength of the partnerships that continue to drive our region forward.

As we move into the second half of the year, our focus remains clear: attracting new investment, supporting business growth, advancing economic diversification and ensuring Windsor-Essex remains one of North America's most competitive locations to invest, innovate and grow. We remain committed to delivering meaningful results for our businesses, communities and partners while building an economy that is resilient, diverse and positioned for future success.

Thank you to our Board of Directors, municipal shareholders, government partners, industry leaders and the dedicated Invest WindsorEssex team for your continued collaboration and commitment to advancing the economic prosperity of Windsor-Essex. Together, we are creating new opportunities and building a stronger future for our region.entrepreneurship and investment attraction.

Gordon Orr
Chief Executive Officer
Invest WindsorEssex

Q2 Performance Metrics 2026

INVEST WINDSOR ESSEX

What We Do

Invest WindsorEssex advances economic development and prosperity in our region. We are the region's lead economic development agency and a dedicated catalyst for business growth and expansion. We attract new businesses to our region, help strengthen existing businesses and support entrepreneurship in three key ways:

Informing

We provide the most current and relevant information and data on site selection, market research and available government funding.

Guiding

We provide answers and advice on general business practices, expansion planning, multi-national branch planning and exporting, as well as training and educational resources.

Connecting

We help organizations cut through red tape and we connect them directly with key decision makers, potential partners and funders.

New Investment Facilitated

$40,874,000

Total amount of new investment to the region, through both public and private investment streams.

- **28** Expansions Facilitated
- **162** New Jobs Facilitated
- **127** Priority Files
- **21** Business Startups

Business Support Sessions

15 Sessions
16 Site Visits
121 Attendees
296 Consultations

Website Analytics

investwindsoressex.com
Users – 17,679
New users – 16,928
Returning users – 931
Page Views – 23,654

webusinesscentre.com
Users – 12,490
New users - 12,036
Returning users - 1,380
Page views – 27,812

TOP SITE VISITORS

Singapore

Canada

China

USA

Vietnam

Social Media Analytics

Invest WindsorEssex
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Centre

Total fans
36,491

Total impressions
252,090

Total engagement
6,242

AMHERSTBURG ESSEX KINGSVILLE LAKESHORE LASALLE LEAMINGTON PELEE ISLAND TECUMSEH WINDSOR

Investment Attraction

Company visited NextStar Energy to explore battery recycling opportunities

Canada's EV market outlook remains positive, supported by renewed federal rebates, rising fuel costs and the growing availability of affordable used EVs. As battery production capacity expands, battery recycling represents a key opportunity to strengthen the local supply chain. The Investment Attraction team continues to engage with battery recycling companies to help establish a closed-loop battery ecosystem in Windsor-Essex.

Company representatives and Investment Attraction team at NextStar Energy.

One of South Korea's largest logistics and warehousing companies selected Windsor as its Canadian hub to support NextStar Energy Inc.

pantos LOGISTICS

Since June 2023, Investment Attraction has assisted Pantos in developing logistics capacity to support NextStar Energy. In June 2026, the company successfully secured a 100,000 sq. ft. warehouse (to be custom bonded) at 2935 Pillette Road, Windsor, for ESS battery storage and repackaging. The project is expected to create 50 jobs in its first phase, and an additional 50 jobs for phase two with additional growth opportunities anticipated as demand increases.

South Korean leading logistics company Pantos Logistics selected Windsor as its Southwestern Ontario warehouse hub.

South Korean food processing company visited Windsor-Essex region to explore potential sites and collaborations with local farms

A South Korean food processing company has eyes on Leamington-Kingsville area for potential set up of operations. The Investment Attraction team has supported the company in identifying suppliers in the region, while providing various site options for the future facility location.

Company executives and Investment Attraction at Leamington Farm

Investment Attraction participated in the '2026 K-Startup Global Expansion Program' at the Ontario Investment and Trade Centre

The Investment Attraction Department attended the 2026 K-Startup Global Expansion Program at the Ontario Investment and Trade Centre in Toronto, presenting market entry strategies and the business opportunities in Windsor-Essex.

AMHERSTBURG ESSEX KINGSVILLE LAKESHORE LASALLE LEAMINGTON PELEE ISLAND TECUMSEH WINDSOR

Small Business & Entrepreneurship Centre

Summer Company builds momentum for student entrepreneurs

The Summer Company program welcomed 16 student entrepreneurs from across Windsor-Essex into the 2026 cohort.

During Q2 2026, the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Centre (SBEC) admitted a strong group of 16 student-led startups to the Summer Company program. Building on spring outreach and recruitment efforts, SBEC prepared participants for launch through business planning support, training and advisory guidance.

Summer Company supports full-time students aged 15 to 29 with hands-on business training, one-to-one advice, mentorship from local business leaders and access to grant funding of up to $3,000. Summer Company kicked off with a training weekend led by Andrew Patricio of Biz Launch, ensuring participants had the knowledge, tools and confidence needed to start their businesses. The students will also participate in group mentor sessions throughout the summer.

The 2026 cohort reflects a diverse mix of high school and post-secondary students from Windsor and Essex County, with businesses spanning service, creative and consumer-facing sectors. Through early-stage training and mentorship, participants were supported in strengthening their business concepts, understanding registration and regulatory requirements and preparing sales and marketing plans for the summer operating season.

Summer Company is delivered locally by SBEC with support from the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade.

Digital Accelerator Program supports business readiness in Windsor-Essex

Digital Accelerator Program participant, Krista Dufour, owner of Dufour Dental Hygiene, received support for SEO, content creation, marketing strategies and cybersecurity.

Jennifer Dobbin joined the Digital Accelerator Program to strengthen the online presence for her growing business, Border City Fabrics.

The Digital Accelerator Program continues to build momentum as a practical digital transformation initiative for brick-and-mortar businesses in Windor-Essex. The Small Business & Entrepreneurship Centre initiative supports participating businesses in strengthening their online presence, improving digital visibility and building resilience in a changing business environment.

Throughout the quarter, program delivery focused on preparing participating businesses to assess and strengthen their digital foundations. The program offers a comprehensive digital assessment, one-to-one advisory support and access to a free digital content package, helping business owners identify opportunities to improve how they connect with customers online.

Participants also benefit from e-learning opportunities designed to strengthen digital knowledge in areas such as social media, e-commerce, content creation, artificial intelligence and online strategy. This combination of assessment, advisory services and skills development is intended to help businesses take practical steps toward greater digital adoption and competitiveness.

Digital Accelerator Program applications are open to eligible Windsor-Essex businesses and accepted on a first-come basis.

Business Retention & Expansion

Celebrating Economic Development Week in Windsor-Essex

The Business Retention and Expansion and Small Business & Entrepreneurship Centre teams celebrated Economic Development Week in May by visiting businesses across Windsor-Essex. During the visits, videos were recorded highlighting why each municipality is a great place to do business while showcasing the support provided by Invest WindsorEssex and its municipal partners. The week's activities were shared on social media, promoting local businesses and raising awareness to the services they provide.

Invest WindsorEssex Senior Director Business Retention and Expansion, Wendy Stark and Town of Kingsville Business Relations Officer, Brandon Stanley joined the Ground Effects team at their Kingsville facility to celebrate Economic Development Week.

Exploring international market opportunities

Two Senior International Market Consultants from the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade's Toronto office presented a Windsor-Essex version of their Advanced Manufacturing Roadshow on May 20. Maria Guzman and Helen Hemmingsen discussed the supports available through the Ministry's Trade Programs Branch that can assist local companies in expanding their export markets. The event focused on the Mexico, U.S. and European markets and included an overview of defence industry opportunities.

Business Retention and Expansion Senior Director Wendy Stark introduces first presenter Maria Guzman from the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade.

Connecting Windsor-Essex business support services providers

Once per quarter, the Business Retention and Expansion team, along with the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Centre, hosts a gathering of organizations that support Windsor-Essex businesses. The Windsor-Essex Business Support Network includes representatives from each of the region's municipalities, WEtech Alliance, Workforce WindsorEssex, Chambers of Commerce, the University of Windsor, St. Clair College, Community Futures Essex County, Export Development Canada, Business Development Bank of Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade and the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. The meetings serve as a touch point to share upcoming events, programming and any challenges that other group members may be able to assist with.

Marketing & Communications

Event Marketing

Invest WindsorEssex in partnership with the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) to present this year's Economic Outlook 2026: Trends and Insights for Entrepreneurs, where attendees heard from BDC Chief Economist Pierre Cléroux.

The Marketing and Communications team supported the Business Retention and Expansion team with a social media campaign for Economic Development Week, highlighting participating municipalities and local businesses.

Invest WindsorEssex supported the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade's Ontario Trade Programs Branch's Advanced Manufacturing Roadshow: Windsor-Essex event, which highlighted a range of export programs available to Ontario companies.

Invest WindsorEssex supported the WindsorEssex Chamber of Commerce's Buy Canadian information session featuring Senator Sandra Pupatello, which explored the federal "Buy Canada" policy and its impact on Canadian businesses.

Invest WindsorEssex, in partnership with the City of Windsor, hosted EDCO's Ontario Big City Leaders Forum, bringing together industry leaders, municipal professionals and economic development experts for a two-day professional development event.

Marketing & Communications

Sponsorships

Invest WindsorEssex supported The Defence Shift Industry Breakfast as the presenting sponsor. Hosted by Senator Sandra Pupatello, the Windsor Essex Chamber of Commerce and the CTMA, the event explored the growing opportunities for manufacturers in Canada's defence sector.

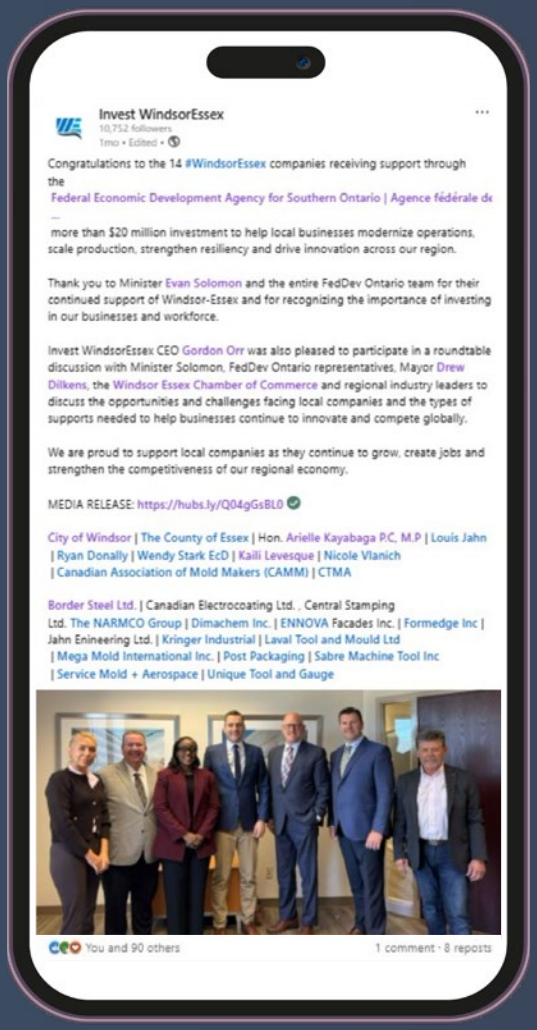
Invest WindsorEssex supported the Lakeshore Horizons Housing & Growth Mini Conference as the lunch sponsor. The event highlighted the Municipality of Lakeshore's approach to growth, housing diversity and community-focused development.

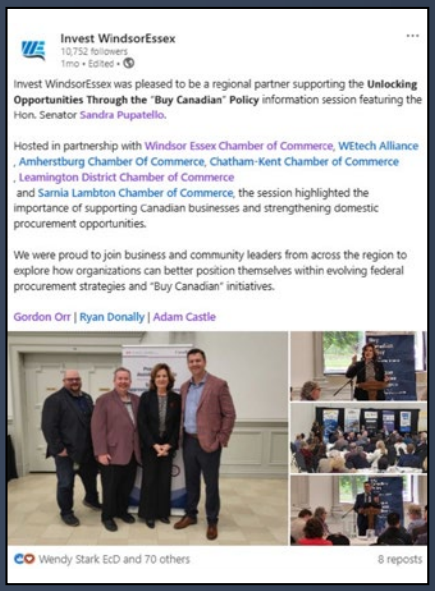
Amherstburg Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards

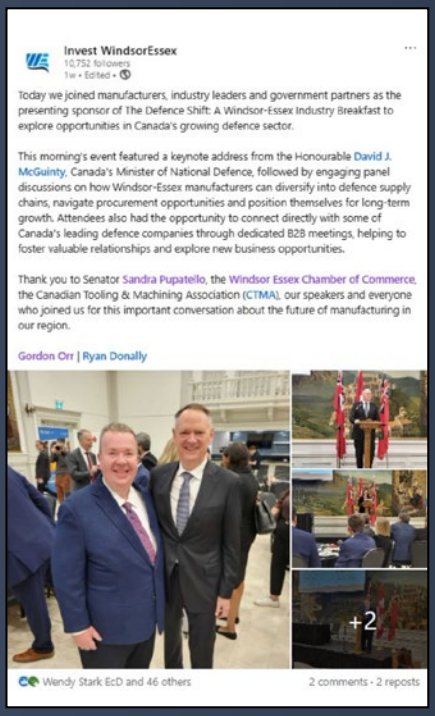
Invest WindsorEssex sponsored the Large Business of the Year Award at this year's Amherstburg Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards. CEO Gordon Orr presented the award to GrowLiv Biologicals Ltd.

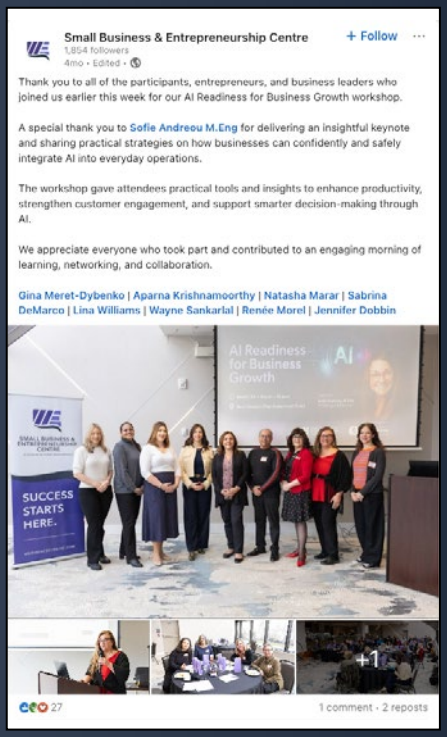
Marketing & Communications

Social Media









Interactions
4,951
Clicks
940
Share
6416

Media Releases

Media Coverage