

MEDIA RELEASE

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Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership Reaccredited as an Accredited Economic Development Organization (AEDO) by the International Economic Development Council

Sarnia, ON – Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership (SLEP) is proud to announce its reaccreditation as an Accredited Economic Development Organization (AEDO) by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). This prestigious designation, held by only five offices in Canada and three offices in Ontario, reaffirms SLEP's leadership in driving economic growth, strategic direction and innovation.

The reaccreditation process involved a comprehensive review of SLEP's programs, strategic plans, and operations, highlighting the organization's commitment to excellence in economic development. As Ontario's second internationally accredited economic development office, SLEP is well-positioned to attract investment, facilitate job creation, and foster economic opportunities for the region.

"Achieving reaccreditation is a testament to the dedication of our team, the strength of our collaborative partnerships, and the direction of our board," said Matthew Slotwinski, CEO of Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership. "This distinction not only validates our strategic efforts, but provides credibility to the high standard of our organization, which is critical when we are dealing with business leaders, site selectors, and politicians on projects of significance."

The IEDC's rigorous assessment included a thorough evaluation of SLEP's strategic plan, marketing materials, stakeholder engagement, and operational efficiency. Following the reaccreditation process, IEDC President and CEO Nathan Ohle stated, "The Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership displays the professionalism, commitment, and technical expertise that is deserving of this honour."

Since initially being accredited in 2019, SLEP has advanced significant initiatives, including the development of Ontario's Hydrogen Hub, growth of the Sarnia-Lambton Hybrid Chemistry Cluster, and innovative workforce attraction and retention programs. These efforts have enhanced the region's competitiveness and strengthened its position as a leader in sustainability and economic diversification.

"While this recognition validates the efforts of the organization, it also comes with critical feedback from economic development's leading professionals," added Slotwinski. "As we strive for excellence as an organization, we look forward to advancing many of the key recommendations of the review committee. These activities will help to ensure we are taking the most appropriate steps to position the Sarnia-Lambton area as a destination for innovation, capital investment, job creation, and workforce growth."

The reaccreditation, effective through January 2027, ensures Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership remains among the top group of economic development organizations worldwide. This achievement underscores Sarnia-Lambton as a premier location to live, work, and invest.

About the Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership:

Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership (SLEP) is the lead economic development agency for the Sarnia-Lambton area. Funded by the County of Lambton, we focus on promoting the distinct advantages Sarnia-Lambton proudly offers companies and residents. By coordinating community-based economic development initiatives and maintaining a commercially attractive environment, we foster new business creation, help ensure that established firms remain and grow here, and work to attract growing businesses to the Sarnia-Lambton area.

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