

**ST. CLAIR COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY**

**MINUTES OF THE**

**FULL BOARD MEETING of the BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

Held on April 23, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in Room #W1028 at the Chatham Campus.

**Present:**

Ms. R. Anguiano Hurst  
Mr. A. Barron  
Mr. W. Beck  
Ms. P. Corro-Battagello  
Mr. G. Fenn, virtually  
Ms. P. France, **President**  
Mr. C. Hotham  
Ms. B. Kressler  
Mr. J. Parent  
Ms. J. Piccinato, **Chair**  
Mr. A. Provost  
Mr. G. Rossi, **Vice Chair**  
Ms. S. Sasseville, virtually  
Mr. E. Sovran, **Past Chair**  
Mr. A. Teshuba, virtually  
Ms. M. Watters  
Ms. G. Wrye  
Ms. J. Yee

**Also Present:**

Ms. K. Adams, Board Secretary  
Mr. E.P. Chant, Editor, SAINT, Student Newspaper, virtually  
Mr. J. Fairley, Senior Vice President, Communications,  
Advancement & External Affairs  
Mr. M. Jones, Senior Vice President, Finance, Administration &  
Chief Financial Officer  
Ms. J. Lehoux, Executive Director, President's Office & Corporate  
Secretary  
Ms. F. McLean, Manager, Marketing and Recruitment, virtually  
Ms. H. Nicholson, TSI, Operations Manager  
Mr. R. Nicoletti, Senior Vice President, International Relations &  
Student Services  
Mr. R. Seguin, Senior Advisor, President's Office  
Mr. M. Silvaggi, Senior Vice President, Academic & Career  
Supports  
Mr. J. Sirianni, Senior Vice President, Human Resources &  
Facilities Services  
Ms. O. Soresi, TSI, Vice President  
Ms. M. Staley Liang, In-coming, Vice President, Academic & Career  
Supports  
Ms. M. Welch, TSI, President

Having a quorum of Governors in attendance either virtually or in person, the Notice of Meeting and the Agenda having been duly sent to all Board members, the meeting was declared regularly constituted. A copy of the Notice of Meeting/Agenda is attached as **Appendix 'A'**.

Ms. J. Piccinato chaired the meeting and Ms. Adams was the recording Board Secretary.

The Board Chair welcomed Thames Students Incorporated to provide the Board with their annual presentation.

**2023-2024 Thames Students Incorporated (TSI) Executive:**

- Mikayla Welch, President
- Olivia Soresi, Vice President
- Rumeesa Begum, Director
- Webster Chapwanya, Director
- Megan Darbyson, Director
- Cameron Lennox, Director
- Ty McQuaid, Director
- Zack St-Onge, Director
- Rain Thomas, Director

**Incoming 2024-2025 Thames Students Incorporated (TSI) Executive:**

- Rumeesa Begum, President
- Suhas Rawal, Vice President
- Webster Chapwanya, Director
- Adam Huffman, Director
- Aashimaa Sharma, Director
- Rain Thomas, Director

Ms. Welch noted for the 2024-2025 academic year, the structure of its Board has changed and the TSI President will be a full-time student and will be in the office full-time over the summer and 15 hours per week during the academic year.

In addition to the TSI Board, Holly Nicholson is the TSI Operations Manager. The Board is also in search for a Student Success and Programs Coordinator to join the team.

Ms. Welch outlined some of TSI's activities and initiatives at the Chatham Campus over the 2023-2024 academic year:

**Community Events and Programming:**

- Breast and Prostate Cancer Research.
- Buxton's Next Generation for Black History Month.
- Special Olympics.
- Chatham-Kent Women's Shelter Human Trafficking Event.
- Turns and Tales Board Game Café – Trivia Night.
- Holiday Toy and Food Drive with more than 45 packages distributed to students.
- Trick or Eat Food Drive.

### Academic Year Events and Activities:

- Orientation Week activities and Welcome Week Swag Giveaways.
  - Residence Move-in Day.
  - Anti-Bullying mural.
  - Paint night.
  - Succulent Planting.
  - Ice Cream Truck Day.
  - Stress Less Fest.
  - Love and Sexual Health Week.
  - One Wish Wednesday.
  - Crafts and Coffee.
  - Oxygen Bar.
  - Open Cricket Play.
  - Free Skate and Hockey.
  - Dodgeball.
  - Push-up and Plank Competitions.
  - TSI partnered with SRC for the Welcome Back Fest, the Masquerade Ball and at the St. Clair College Spitfire Night.
- 
- TSI invested more than \$80,000 into the fitness facility through the purchase of new and improved equipment.
- 
- TSI was fortunate enough during this academic year to participate in four Leadership Training sessions with Dr. Andrea Dinardo.
- 
- TSI attended the groundbreaking ceremony on March 21, 2024, for the new Tennis Dome that is being built across from the Chatham Campus. They are looking forward to the opportunity for students and the community to be able to enjoy the multi-use facility and are currently negotiating an agreement with Tennis Canada to allow students free access to the tennis courts for a few hours per week.

Ms. Welch concluded by thanking the Board of Governors and Senior Operations Group for their support.

The Board Chair thanked TSI for their presentation and for all of their efforts to make this past year enjoyable and successful for the students at the Chatham Campus.

President France took the opportunity to personally thank Mikayla, Olivia, Holly and the entire TSI Executive for their hard work, initiative and advocacy for the Chatham Campus students, for bringing forward student concerns and working together to find solutions to the issues.

The TSI Annual Report is attached to the minutes.

### **1.0 Adoption of the Agenda and Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Hearing no declarations of conflict of interest and no changes to the agenda, it was

**RESOLVED THAT** the Board  
of Governors adopt the Full  
Board agenda as presented.

### **2.0 Approval of the Minutes of the Full Board meeting held on Tuesday March 26, 2024, in Windsor, ON**

Hearing no amendments, errors or omissions to the minutes, it was

**RESOLVED THAT** the Board of  
Governors approve the Full Board  
minutes of the March 26, 2024  
meeting.

### **3.0 Constituent Reports**

There were no constituent reports for the April Full Board meeting.

At this time, the Board Chair took the opportunity to congratulate E.P. Chant on the announcement of his upcoming retirement, in August 2024. Mr. Chant is the SRC, Managing Editor of Student Publications and has worked with the SRC for the past 30 years.

### **4.0 President's Report**

The Board Chair called on the President to provide her report to the Board.

Ms. France noted that the President's Report was included in the Full Board meeting documents, distributed by email and has been posted to the Board portal. She outlined the events and initiatives that have occurred since the last Board meeting:

- On Thursday, March 18, 2024, Essex Windsor EMS recognized its employees at its 2024 Service Awards and Recognition Ceremony. Along with recognizing long-term employees and retirees, as well as Rookie and Mentor of the Year and Fellowship, there were two Community Awards presented at the event. Essex Windsor EMS Chief Justin Lammers presented trophies to College President Patti France and Lakeshore Mayor Tracey Bailey and thanked them for their ongoing support over the years. Chief Lammers thanked President France and the College for their support and leadership over the years, specifically her work in advocating with Provincial bodies to ensure that St. Clair College was one of the only paramedic programs that graduated on time in the middle of the pandemic.
- A FIRST Robotics Canada competition was held on Friday, March 29 and Saturday, March 30, 2024, at the University of Windsor. St. Clair College was a Gold sponsor and John Fairley provided opening remarks at the event. FIRST Robotics Canada endeavours to engage elementary and high school students to pursue further studies and careers in Science, Engineering and Technology and engineering through mentor-based programs while building robots and participating in tournaments.



- As President France previously reported, students in the College's Landscape Horticulture program, under the leadership of faculty members John Lein and Jason Milling, will be assisting the Brentwood Recovery Home in designing and refurbishing a portion of their property to support a leisure area for female participants. On Thursday, March 28, 2024, the students presented their preliminary landscape design. Once a design has been selected, the College will purchase the materials for the project. President France thanked Brentwood for the opportunity for the Landscape Horticulture students to complete their capstone project and gain a relevant experiential learning experience.
- On Thursday, April 4, 2024, St. Clair College's Powerline Technician program hosted their 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Powerline Rodeo. The Rodeo has strong support from employers, the local Optimist Club, students and industry partners. St. Clair College is the largest post-secondary trainer with 150 students in the Powerline Technician program delivered out of the National Powerline Training Centre in Chatham, Ontario. President France thanked the students, staff and Program Advisory Committee (PAC) members who once again made the Powerline Rodeo a success.
- The 2023-24 Esports Awards Banquet was held on Thursday, April 4, 2024, at the St. Clair College Centre for the Arts. Our congratulations go out to all award winners.
- The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Alumni of Distinction ceremony took place on Saturday, April 13, 2023, at the St. Clair College Centre for the Arts. The 2024 recipients are:
  - Dan MacDonald, Radio host at CKLW Radio Bell Media Windsor – graduate of the Journalism program and is the recipient in the category of Media Art and Design.
  - Larry Delaey, President and CEO Aarkel Group, Wallaceburg – graduate of the Moldmaking Technician program and is the recipient in the category of Technology/Engineering.
  - Ursell Arends, Vice Prime Minister of Aruba – graduate of the International Business program and is the recipient in the category of Business and Information Technology.
  - David Cassidy, President of Unifor 444 – graduate of the Electrician Construction Maintenance program and is the recipient in the category of Apprenticeship.
  - Bhupinder Singh, Professional TNA Wrestler – graduate of the Business Administration - Human Resources and Event Management programs and is the recipient in the category of Recent Graduate (past 5 years).
  - Chauouki Hamka, Community Leader Windsor/Essex for Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and Correctional Officer Southwest Detention Centre – graduate of the Law and Security Administration program and is the recipient in the category of Community Studies.

This year's list of honourees will bring a total of 137 graduates recognized by the College since 1992.

- The 2024 Chatham Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards was held on Thursday, April 11, 2024, and St. Clair College was once again a proud sponsor of the event's Young Business Individual of the Year Award. Mr. John Fairley presented Dr. Maxwell Abraham of Abraham Orthodontics with this year's award.
- On April 17, 2024, a customized training contract with Unifor National was signed, to deliver the College's eight-course Battery Manufacturing Certificate. This project received funding from the provincial government through the Skills Development Fund and will assist Unifor Independent Part Supplier workers affected by the Electric Vehicle Transition to acquire training/upskilling.

The first cohort of 24 students will begin training on Wednesday May 29, 2024, in the Ford Centre of Manufacturing (FCEM), one evening per week and weekends. The cohort is expected to complete the training by October 30, 2024. NextStar Energy has guaranteed interviews upon completion of the program.

President France commended Tina Papac, Director, Continuing Education and Corporate Training, for all of her and her team's hard work and efforts in the development and delivery of this and other training programs, as Corporate Training is working to build relationships and meet the needs of our community.

- The SRC and TSI held their annual Changeover Banquet on Friday, April 19, 2024. The Senior Operating Group is looking forward to another great year of working with the SRC and TSI in 2024-2025.
- On Saturday, April 20, 2024, the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Atelier Fashion Show was held in the Student Life Centre. Students of the College's Fashion Design program proudly presented the pieces that they designed and created, including a jacket designed by graduating student, Stephen Drouin and worn on the runway by President France. The show also included past graduates and highlighted their designs from over the past ten years. President France noted that this program is an example of bringing together technology and the creativity of the arts.

A Governor inquired how many students will be participating in the Battery Manufacturing Certificate program?

President France responded that there are 24 students in this cohort, with participants from Unifor Local 195's Action Centre who are interested in transitioning from traditional automotive jobs to EV. We are hopeful that this is the first of many cohorts who will complete the program.

The President's report is attached to the minutes as Item #4.0.

The President also noted that the media report was sent out electronically and is attached for information.

## 5.0 **Approval Items**

### 5.1 **2024 Convocation Motion to Confer Diplomas, Certificates and Degrees**

The Board of Governors was provided a recommendation from College Administration for the conferring of Diplomas, Certificates and Degrees for the Fifty-Seventh Annual Convocation ceremonies.

After a brief discussion it was,

**RESOLVED THAT** the Board of Governors of St. Clair College hereby authorize the awarding of the appropriate Diploma, Certificate or Degree to the eligible students, as designated by the Registrar and recommended by Faculty, to be presented at each session of the Fifty-Seventh Annual Convocation of St. Clair College of Applied Arts and Technology.

## 6.0 **By-law and Policy Review**

### 6.1 **By-law 29: Conflict of Interest– 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

After a brief discussion, it was,

**RESOLVED THAT** the Board of Governors approve the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of By-law 29: Conflict of Interest, as presented.

### 6.2 **Policy 2003-5: Code of Conduct – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

After a brief discussion, it was,

**RESOLVED THAT** the Board of Governors approve the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of Policy 2003-5: Code of Conduct, as presented.

## 8.0 **Date of the Next Meeting**

8.1 The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 28, 2024, in Windsor, ON.

The Full Board meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Transforming lives and strengthening communities through high quality and accessible educational experiences that support career-readiness, innovation, and life-long learning.

## **ST. CLAIR COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **516<sup>th</sup> FULL BOARD MEETING**

**of the**

### **BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

#### **NOTICE OF MEETING**

**DATE:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024

**TIME:** 5:30 p.m. – Meeting

**PLACE:** Room W1028, Chatham Campus

**NOTE:** Dinner will be available for Board members, Senior Operations Group, Thames Students Incorporated and Constituents in Room W1056 at 5:00 p.m.

The Thames Students Incorporated (TSI) Annual Presentation to the Board will take place at 5:30 p.m., followed by the Full Board meeting.

#### **AGENDA**

1.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

2.0 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FULL BOARD MEETING HELD ON MARCH 26, 2024, IN WINDSOR, ON

3.0 CONSTITUENT REPORTS

4.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT  
(Policy – Executive Limitations Communication & Counsel #2003-21)

**Information Item** – The President will provide a report to the Board apprising the Board of any new developments since the last meeting.

5.0 APPROVAL ITEMS

5.1 2024 Convocation Motion to Confer Diplomas, Certificates and Degrees

**Approval Item** – The motion to confer Diplomas, Certificates and Degrees to the Graduates of the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Convocation Ceremonies will be presented to the Board, attached as Item #5.1.

## 6.0 BY-LAW AND POLICY REVIEW

### 6.1 By-law 29: Conflict of Interest

**Approval Item** – The Board will review By-law 29: Conflict of Interest for 1<sup>st</sup> reading, attached as Item #6.1.

### 6.2 Policy 2003-5: Code of Conduct

**Approval Item** – The Board will review Policy 2003-5: Code of Conduct for 1<sup>st</sup> reading, attached as Item #6.2.

## 7.0 NEW BUSINESS

## 8.0 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

8.1 The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at the Windsor Campus.

**TO: BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**FROM: PATRICIA FRANCE, PRESIDENT**

**DATE: APRIL 23, 2024**

**RE: 2024 CONVOCATION CONFERRING OF DIPLOMAS, CERTIFICATES AND DEGREES**

**SECTOR: ALL – SENIOR OPERATIONS GROUP**

---

#### **AIM**

To provide the Board of Governors with a recommendation from College Administration for the conferring of Diplomas, Certificates and Degrees for the Fifty-Seventh Annual Convocation Ceremonies.

#### **BACKGROUND**

College Administration annually provides the Board of Governors with a motion to authorize the conferring of the appropriate Diplomas, Certificates and Degrees to eligible students.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT** the Board of Governors of St. Clair College of Applied Arts and Technology hereby authorize the awarding of the appropriate Diploma, Certificate or Degree to the eligible students, as designated by the Registrar and recommended by Faculty, to be presented at each session of the Fifty-Seventh Annual Convocation of St. Clair College of Applied Arts and Technology.



**BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
BY-LAWS**

<b>Policy Title:</b>	<b>Conflict of Interest</b>	<b>Area of Responsibility: Board of Governors</b>
<b>Policy Section:</b>	<b>Board of Governors By-law</b>	<b>By-law No: 29</b>
<b>Effective Date:</b>	<b>May 23, 2024</b>	<b>Page: 1 of 2</b>
<b>Supersedes:</b>	<b>November 24, 1998</b>	<b>Last Review Date: May 23, 2024</b>
<b>Mandatory Review Date:</b>	<b>May 24, 2029</b>	

Conflict of Interest

29.1 Board Policy 2003-5 speaks to Conflict of Interest (COI). All Board members are expected to comply.

29.2 Every member of the Board or any Committee thereof who has a conflict of interest in any matter under consideration by the College is required to declare the nature of such conflict to the Chair or Vice Chair as soon as said member is aware of the conflict and prior to discussion of such matter at any meeting of the members of the Board or Committee thereof and shall refrain from discussing and voting thereon.

29.23 The obligations of Board members shall be prescribed by the Ministry Binding Policy Directive on Conflicts of Interest.

29.34 Secretary to the Board and/or Corporate Secretary shall record in the Minutes of the College, the nature of any conflict of interest so declared on the part of any member of the Board.

29.45a) For purposes of Sub-Sections (1) and (2), conflict of interest normally relates, but is not limited, to a direct pecuniary interest of the member, either personally or through a member's family.

b) Direct pecuniary interest shall be interpreted as an individual interest rather than one that is common to a class of persons, including situations where a member or a member's immediate family could benefit personally from a decision while a larger group of people could not.

c) Immediate family shall be interpreted to include the spouse, parents or children of a member.

29.6 A member of the Board or any Committee thereof

- a) shall not use information obtained as a result of the member's appointment for personal benefit,
- b) shall not divulge confidential information obtained as a result of the member's appointment unless legally required to do so, and
- c) shall declare any conflict of interest at the earliest opportunity.

29.67 An undeclared conflict of interest may be identified by a majority vote of the Board in which the member who is the subject of the motion shall not vote.

29.78 Where a Board member fails to comply with this section and/or the Minister's Binding Policy Directive on Conflict of Interest, unless the member's failure is the result of a bona fide error in judgment, the Board shall:

- a) issue a verbal reprimand; or;
- b) issue a written reprimand; and/or;
- c) request that the Board member resign; and/or;
- d) remove the Board member and declare the member's position vacant.

29.8 Removal of a Board member shall be initiated on the basis of Board motion and returnable at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board and determined on the basis of a three quarters ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) majority of the Board, in which the member found to have been in conflict shall not vote.





## POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

<b>Policy Title:</b>	<b>Code of Conduct</b>	<b>Area of Responsibility: Board of Governors</b>
<b>Policy Section:</b>	<b>Governance Process</b>	<b>Policy No: 2003-5</b>
<b>Effective Date:</b>	<b>May 23, 2024</b>	<b>Page: 1 of 3</b>
<b>Supersedes:</b>	<b>May 24, 2022</b>	<b>Last Review Date: May 23, 2024</b>
<b>Mandatory Review Date:</b>	<b>May 24, 2029</b>	

Board members will be independent, impartial and responsible in order to effectively govern the College. This Code of Conduct is intended to set basic rules for Board members in order to maintain the Board's integrity and the confidence of the community.

1. Board members will be ethical and professional. This includes proper use of authority and appropriate decorum when acting as Board members. Board members will treat one another, students and staff with respect, cooperation and will deal openly on all matters.
2. Members are accountable to exercise the powers and discharge the duties of their office honestly, in good faith and in the best interest of the College.
  - 2.1 Governors can rely in good faith on:
    - i. Financial Statements represented by officer or auditor to present fairly the financial position of the corporation.
    - ii. Report or advice of an officer or employee – if reasonable in the circumstances to rely on report or advice.
    - iii. Report or advice of an expert; lawyer, accountant, engineer, appraiser or other person whose profession lends credibility to statements made by them.
3. Board members will not communicate any matter designated as confidential to anyone.
4. Board members will abide by the confidentiality of information in perpetuity.
  - 4.1 Board members will not waive Board rights to confidentiality including discussions which occur at legally-held-in-camera meetings of the Board.
  - 4.2 Board members will enforce upon themselves whatever discipline is needed to govern with excellence including a resolution of censure or a request for removal of a Board member.
  - 4.3 Members of the Board who are students or employees of the College should not raise issues at the Board level which affect them personally. Such issues should be handled through the regular avenues of communications within the College.
5. Board members will not attempt to exercise individual authority over the organization except as explicitly set forth in Board policies.
  - 5.1 Board members' interaction with the President or with staff will recognize that any individual member or group of members does not have authority other than that explicitly stated in Board policies.

- 5.2 Board members' interaction with the public, press or other entities will recognize the same limitation and the similar inability of any member(s) to speak for the Board.
- 5.3 Board members will make no evaluations of the President or staff performance except as that performance is assessed against explicit Board policies by the official process.
- 5.4 Board members will encourage employees to utilize reporting lines within the administration to bring their concerns to the Board.
6. Board members will be familiar with the incorporating documents of St. Clair College, Board By-laws, Board regulations, Board policies and organizational structure of the College, as well as the general rules of procedure and proper conduct of a meeting so that any decision of the Board may be made in an efficient, knowledgeable and expeditious fashion.
- 6.1 The following list identifies the non-delegable powers that must be exercised by the full board of governors:
- i. Filling board vacancies/auditor vacancies.
  - ii. Issuing debt obligations (except as specifically authorized by governors).
  - iii. Approving financial statements.
  - iv. Adopting, amending and repealing by-laws.
7. Board members will be well prepared for each meeting and for the discussion of any item.
8. Board members will take part in educational activities that will assist them in carrying out their responsibilities.
9. Board members will attend meetings on a regular and punctual basis. A member may attend a maximum of 20% of board meetings through virtual means.
10. Governors when acting as Governors, are expected to consider and represent the interests of the College and its community as a whole in preference to any other interests which that Governor may also have or represent.
11. In keeping with the Minister's Binding Policy Directive and the "Conflict of Interest" Policy Framework Governors must declare a conflict of interest, at the earliest opportunity, with respect to their fiduciary responsibility and are expected to adhere to the Minister's Binding Policy Directive, as well as the Board By-laws and Policies pertaining to the "Conflict of Interest".

As members of the Board of St. Clair College, Board members are guided by the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities Act, particularly, Regulation 770 and the Minister's Binding Policy Framework. The following specific points, however, are particularly to be noted in the conduct of the Board matters:

1. Board members must be sensitive to conflicts of interest whether it is actual, perceived or potential and should be guided by the Provincial guidelines in those matters. A conflict-of-interest declaration must be made on any items or discussions which cut across members' involvement with respect to other organizations or possible gains to themselves or their families.
2. Board members should avoid raising any specific cases in respect to professors/instructors, students, or employees at the Board meetings. Such items should be discussed with the President or Chair of the Board outside of the context of the formal meeting of the Board.

## Process for Declaring a Conflict of Interest

At the beginning of every Board meeting, the Chair of the Board is to ask, and have recorded in the minutes, whether any Governor has a conflict to declare with respect to any agenda item. A Governor who has a conflict of interest is to declare the conflict and the general nature of the conflict.

In keeping with best practices, Board members that have declared conflict are to leave the room prior to that particular agenda item being discussed. This includes both open and closed/in camera meetings, and in cases of actual, perceived and potential conflict.

This approach provides the best protection for the Board and the individual Governor, to avoid any claims that the Governor influenced a Board decision for his/her benefit or to benefit the conflicting interest.

## Handling Violations of the Code of Conduct

A Board member who is alleged to have violated the Code of Conduct will be informed in writing and will be allowed to present his/her views of such alleged breach at the next Board meeting. The complaining party must be identified. If the complaining party is a member, he/she and the respondent member will absent themselves from any vote upon resolution of censure or other action that may be brought by the members. Members who are found to have violated the Code of Conduct may be subject to censure.

In addition to the above, Board members will be required to complete and sign a Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure form (Board By-laws, Appendix F) annually, to be reviewed by the Board Chair. The Board will attest on an annual basis (as per the annual workplan), that all members are in compliance with the updated Conflict of Interest Minister's Binding Policy Directive and document as part of the November meeting minutes. The Board Chair will complete the *Annual Attestation Form for College Boards of Governors* on behalf of the Governors, based on their individual submission, annually (Board By-laws, Appendix G).

**Ministry of Colleges and Universities**

Office of the Minister

438 University Avenue, 5<sup>th</sup> floor  
Toronto ON M7A 0B8

Tel.: 416 326-1600

**Ministère des Collèges et Universités**

Bureau de la ministre

438, avenue University, 5e étage  
Toronto ON M7A 0B8

Tél.: 416 326-1600



**MEMORANDUM TO:** Chairs, Boards of Governors, Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology  
Presidents, Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology

**FROM:** The Honourable Jill Dunlop  
Minister of Colleges and Universities

**DATE:** December 8, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Auditor General Recommendations regarding College Boards of Governors

---

As you are aware, the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario undertook a value-for-money audit of publicly assisted college oversight in 2020-21. The final [audit report](#) was released in December 2021 and included 26 recommendations, including two directed to the Ministry of Colleges and Universities that aimed to strengthen college governance. I am writing today to share the actions being undertaken by the ministry in response to these two recommendations.

### **Revisions to the Conflict of Interest Minister's Binding Policy Directive**

The Conflict of Interest Minister's Binding Policy Directive provides direction to college boards of governors with respect to conflicts of interest. The Directive is intended to:

- Assist individual board members in determining when their membership on the board has the potential to be used for personal or private benefit, financial or otherwise;
- Protect the integrity of the board as a whole and its individual members who follow conflict of interest provisions; and
- Ensure that an individual is not disqualified from being nominated for or running for a board position because of a potential for conflict of interest.

As recommended by the Auditor General, the Conflict of Interest Minister's Binding Policy Directive has been updated to:

- Require each member of a college board of governors to complete annual Conflict of Interest Declaration Forms that are reviewed by board chairs; and
- Require each college board of governors to attest on an annual basis that the board is in compliance with the directive.

Please see the updated directive attached for your reference with revisions highlighted. The updated directive is also available [online](#).

The ministry will begin collecting attestations from college boards in Winter 2023. Further instructions, sample Conflict of Interest Declaration forms and attestation forms will be provided to board secretaries in the coming weeks.

### **Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointments to College Boards of Governors**

The total number of vacancies on college boards to be filled by candidates appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council (LGIC) varies from year to year, with some years being significantly higher than others due to the maximum three-year term limit outlined in Ontario Regulation 34/03.

The Auditor General recommended that the terms of LGIC appointees be staggered to help support college boards in operating with a full complement of members and to provide for an orderly transition of appointees.

The ministry is beginning work on addressing this recommendation and will be in contact with college board secretaries in the coming weeks. The intent of this exercise is to stabilize the number of LGIC vacancies that occur annually on each board to avoid having a majority of a board's LGIC seats become vacant at the same time. The ministry will work collaboratively with individual colleges to discuss options and identify opportunities to stagger LGIC appointment terms where appropriate.

If you have any questions about the actions outlined above, please reach out to Seetha Kumaresh, Director, Postsecondary Education Programs Branch at [Seetha.Kumaresh@ontario.ca](mailto:Seetha.Kumaresh@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,



The Honourable Jill Dunlop  
Minister of Colleges and Universities

c:           Marketa Evans, CEO/President, Colleges Ontario  
              Janet Hope, Vice President, Colleges Ontario  
              Board Secretaries, Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology  
              Scott Ramsay, Director of Policy and Issues, Office of the Minister of  
              Colleges and Universities  
              David Wai, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Colleges and Universities

Anna Boyden, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy and  
Planning Division  
Seetha Kumaresh, Director, Postsecondary Education Programs Branch  
Adrienne Swanson, Manager, Colleges Unit  
Fiona Hack, Manager, Policy Coordination Unit  
Ivonne Mellozzi, Director, Strategic Policy Coordination Branch

**Annual Attestation Form for College Boards of Governors**

*To be completed annually by the Board Chair at each institution.*

On behalf of the board of governors at St. Clair College,

I attest that:

- All college board members have completed annual Conflict of Interest Declaration Forms.
- The board is operating in compliance with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities' Conflict of Interest Binding Policy Directive.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_





# Thames Students Inc 2023-2024

Full Board Minutes:  
April 23, 2024

TSI Annual Presentation  
1 of 14



# Outgoing Board of Directors

- Mikayla Welch – President
- Olivia Soresi – Vice President
- Cameron Lennox – Director
- Webster Chapwanya – Director
  - Rain Thomas – Director
  - Ty McQuaid – Director
- Megan Darbyson – Director
- Rumeesa Begum – Director



# Incoming Board of Directors

- Rumeesa Begum – President
- Suhas Rawal – Vice President
- Webster Chapwanya – Director
  - Rain Thomas – Director
  - Adam Huffman – Director
- Aashima Sharma – Director



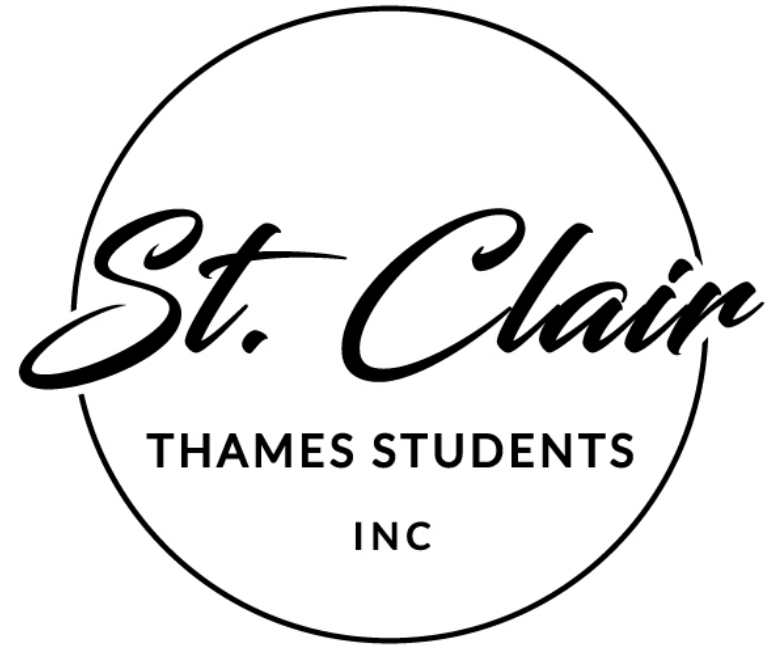
**Rumeesa Begum**  
**President**



**Suhas Santosh Rawal**  
**Vice President**

# Meet the TSI Team

- Holly Nicholson, Operations Manager
- Linda Niven, Lead Barista at Café 78
- Robert Jones, Bean and Barley Cook
- Valerie Lemieux, Bean and Barley Cashier
- Student Success and Programs Coordinator - ?
- Kitchen & Food Services Lead - ?





# Community Involvement

- \$250.00 donated towards Breast Cancer Research
- \$250.00 donated towards Prostate Cancer Research
- \$250.00 donated to Buxton's Next Generation for Black History Month
- \$1,500.00 donated to Special Olympics (\$500.00 to Polar Plunge, \$1,000.00 to Special Olympics Championship Games)





# Community Involvement

- CK Women's Shelter Human Trafficking Event
- Trivia Night at Turns and Tales Board Game Café
- Holiday Toy and Food Drive
- Trick or Eat Food Drive





# TSI Events

- Anti Bullying Mural
  - Paint Night
- Succulent Planting
- Ice Cream Truck Day
  - Stress Less Fest
- Love and Sexual Health Week
  - One Wish Wednesday
    - Crafts & Coffee
    - Oxygen Bar
    - And More!



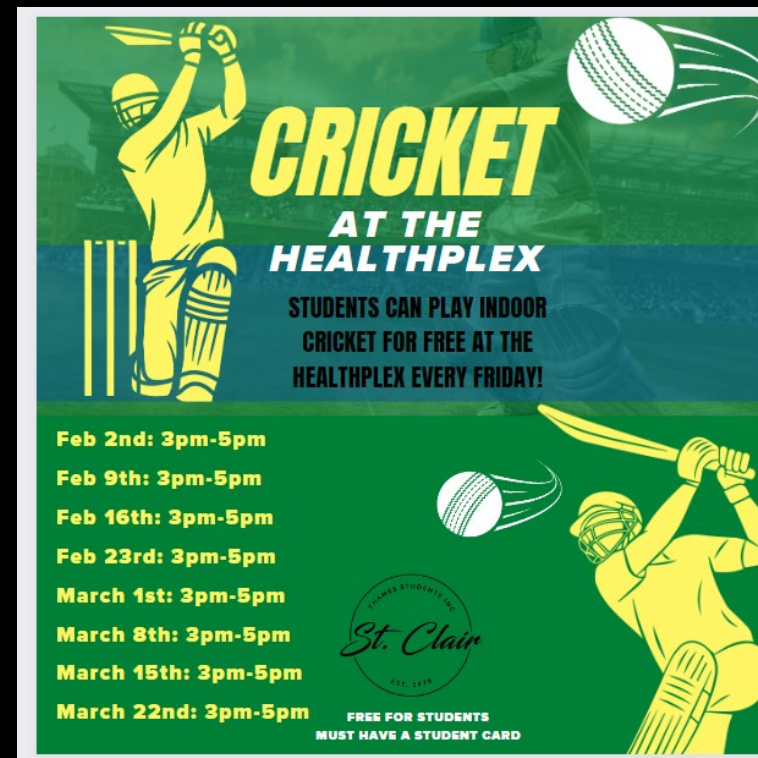
Full Board Minutes:  
April 23, 2024

TSI Annual Presentation  
7 of 14



# Athletics

- Open Cricket Play at the HealthPlex
- Free Ice Skating & Hockey at Arena
  - Dodgeball Game
- Push Up & Plank Competitions





# Year Highlights!



Free ice cream!

Full Board Minutes:  
April 23, 2024

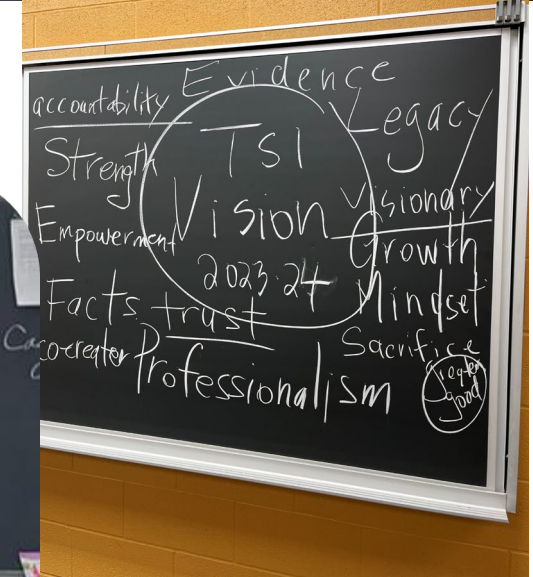


TSI Annual Presentation  
9 of 14



# Training with Dr. Andrea Dinardo

TSI was fortunate enough to have the support from St. Clair Administration to participate in leadership training with Dr. D. We had 4 sessions total this academic year



Full Board Minutes:  
April 23, 2024





# Orientation

TSI Welcomed our New Students in September and January!  
We hosted a Frosh Week in September and a Frost Week in January.  
TSI also welcomed residence students at Move In Day in September



# Partnership Across Campuses

TSI partnered with SRC to send a bus full of students to the Welcome Back Fest in September and the Masquerade Ball in March  
TSI also joined the Windsor Campus at the St. Clair College Spitfire Game Night!





# Upcoming

TSI is looking forward to the new Tennis Dome that is being built across the road. We are excited for students and the community to be able to participate in all the fun activities.



Full Board Minutes:  
April 23, 2024



# Thank you for all your continued support!

Questions?





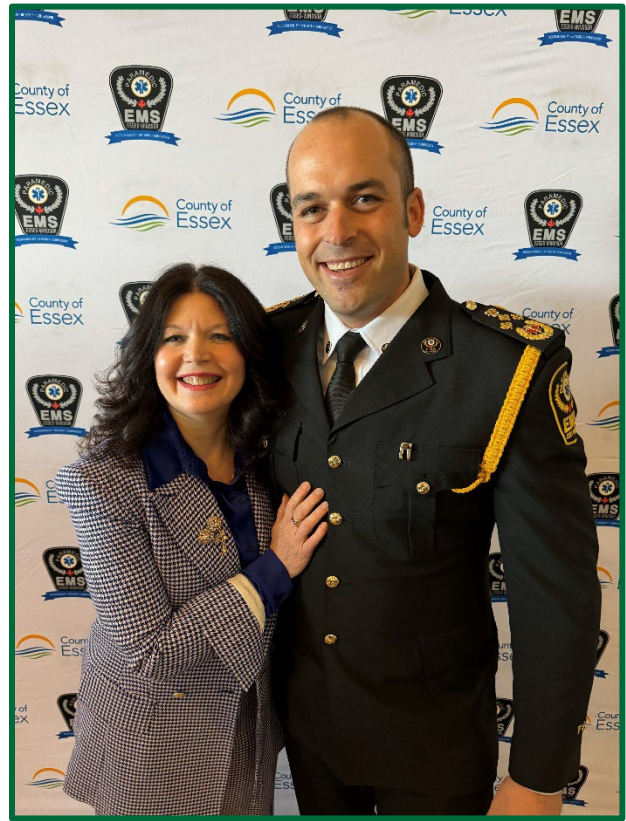
## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Meeting of the Board of Governors  
Tuesday, April 23, 2024

### 1. Essex Windsor EMS Service Awards & Recognition Ceremony

On Thursday, March 18, 2024, Essex Windsor EMS recognized its employees at its 2024 Service Awards and Recognition Ceremony which took place at the St. Clair College Centre for the Arts. During the evening, Windsor Essex EMS recognized 15, 25 and 35-year employees and retirees. There were also awards for Rookie of the Year, Mentor of the Year and Fellowship. Two (2) Community Awards were presented during the evening. Essex Windsor EMS Chief Justin Lammers presented trophies to College President France and Lakeshore Mayor Tracey Bailey, also the CEO of the Community Support Centre, and thanked them for their ongoing support over the years.

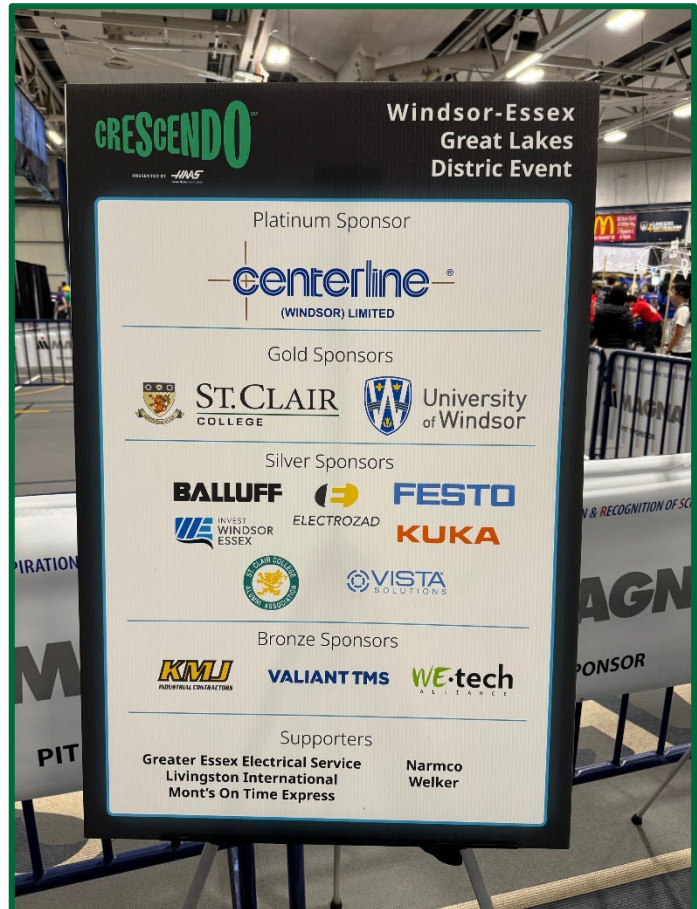
Chief Lammers shared, "We are grateful for the support and leadership shown by President France and her team have provided over the years. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the work in advocating with Provincial bodies to ensure that St. Clair College was one of the only paramedic programs that graduated on time in the middle of the pandemic. Success stories like this with President France and St. Clair College are why they are this year's recipient of our Community Award."



**RISE** ABOVE THE ORDINARY

## 2. First Robotics

FIRST Robotics Canada was established in 2001 with a mission to inspire Canadian high school and elementary school students to pursue further studies and careers in science, technology and engineering. It pursues its mission primarily through offering opportunities for students, working in teams and assisted by expert adult mentors, to build robots and to take part in tournaments which feature on-field competitions, judged awards and other forms of recognition, potentially including university and college scholarships. A FIRST Robotics competition took place at the University of Windsor on Friday, March 29 and Saturday, March 30, 2024. St. Clair College was a Gold sponsor and Vice President, Communications, Advancement and External Affairs, John Fairley gave opening remarks.





### 3. Brentwood Project Presentations

As previously reported to the Board, our Horticulture students, under the leadership of John Lein and Jason Milling, will be assisting the Brentwood Recovery Home in refurbishing a portion of their front to support a leisure area for female participants. St. Clair Horticulture students will come up the landscape design and also install the new garden. On Thursday, March 28, 2024, the students gave their preliminary landscape design presentations. Once a design has been selected, the College will purchase the materials for the project. Another shining example of St. Clair College's engagement in our community...*way to go, Saints!*



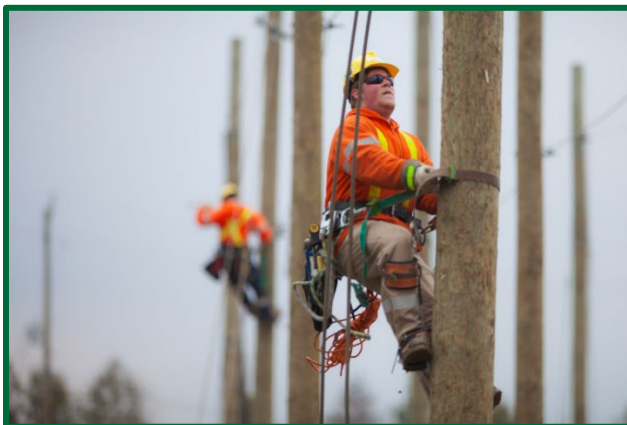


---

#### 4. Powerline Rodeo

St. Clair College's Powerline Technician program hosted their annual Powerline Rodeo on Thursday, April 4, 2024. This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this event. The Rodeo has strong support from employers, the local Optimist Club, students and industry partners. St. Clair College is the largest post-secondary trainer with 150 students in the Powerline Technician program delivered out of the National Powerline Training Centre in Chatham, Ontario.

On behalf of St. Clair College, thank you to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year Powerline Technician program students, to the staff and to the PAC members who made the Powerline Rodeo a successful and memorable event.



5. Esports Banquet

The 2023-24 Esports Awards Banquet was held on Thursday, April 4, 2024 at the SCCCA. Our congratulations go out to all award winners. *Way to go, Saints!*



# 2023-24

## STUDENT AWARDS



DIRECTOR'S AWARD  
HONGYU GUO

BROADCAST STAFF OF THE YEAR  
AMANDA "COMMANDA" DUPUIS

MARKETING STAFF OF THE YEAR  
HARSHIL "XYPHON" PATEL

NEXUS STAFF OF THE YEAR  
LOGAN "AP" LOCKETT

### VARSITY

TEAM MVP

FRANCIS "KB" BILLER  
ERIC "BAKERYBOY" PITZEL  
BEN "SPOODS" TALBOT  
MIREL "KYU" HRUSTEMOVIC  
JACK "REYZR" FRANCIS

COACH OF THE YEAR  
OWEN "HYBRID" MANTHA

### ACADEMY

TEAM MVP

ERIK "NOT ERIK" HODGSON  
CHRIS "BADRICKGRIMES" KONTOULIS  
CHASE "GRUBBY" POTOMA  
ALEKSANDER "PETRO" PETROVIC  
CONOR "JOCKZ" JACQUES  
MALAKHI "SHIRO" BELANGER

COACH OF THE YEAR  
TAM "GUBB" NGUYEN

SAREK "FAKTIONZ" MARTIN  
ADRIAN "MROZ" TUBAKOVIC  
QUINTAN "RAMEN MADE" WHISTON  
MITCHELL "CHILLIN" BLACKMORE  
NOAH "KIRA" AALDERS  
KADEN "UNKNOWN" BREW  
JOAO "RICEKRAKER" FARIA  
DENNIS "ONEDAVOUT" KONTOULIS





---

## 6. Alumni of Distinction Banquet

The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Alumni of Distinction ceremony took place on Saturday, April 13, 2023 at the St. Clair College Centre for the Arts. The 2024 recipients come from diverse backgrounds, but they have all reached great success in their chosen fields. The honorees this year are the following:

- **Dan MacDonald , Radio host at CKLW Radio Bell Media Windsor**, graduated in 2002 from Journalism Program. Dan is being honoured in the category of Media Art and Design.
- **Larry Delaey, President and CEO Aarkel Group, Wallaceburg**, graduated in 1989 from the Moldmaking Technician Program. Larry is being honoured in the category of Technology/Engineering.
- **Ursell Arends, Vice Prime Minister of Aruba**, graduated in 2005 in the International Business Program. Ursell is being honoured in the category of Business and IT.
- **David Cassidy, President of Unifor 444**, graduated in 1991 from Electrician Construction Maintenance Program. David is being honoured in the category of Apprenticeship.
- **Bhupinder Singh, Professional TNA Wrestler**, graduated in 2018 in Human Resources and 2019 Event Management Program. Bhupinder is being honoured as a Recent Graduate (past 5 years).
- **Chauouki Hamka, Community Leader Windsor/Essex for Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and Correctional Officer Southwest Detention Centre**, graduated in 2009 from Law and Security Administration Program. Chauouki is being honoured in the category of Community Studies.

This year's list of honourees will bring a total of 137 graduates recognized by the College since 1992. *Congratulations to all our honourees!*



---

## 7. Chatham Chamber Business Excellence Awards

The 2024 Chatham Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards took place on Thursday, April 11, 2024 at the Everest Convention Centre. St. Clair College, once again, was a proud sponsor of the event's Young Business Individual of the Year Award. This year, the award was given to Dr. Maxwell Abraham of Abraham Orthodontics. Senior Vice President, Communications, Advancement & External Affairs, John Fairley, was on hand to present this prestigious award. *Congratulations, Dr. Abraham!*



## 8. Unifor Customized Training

A customized training contract for Unifor National was signed on April 17, 2024 in the amount of \$130,000 to deliver our 8-course Battery Manufacturing Certificate. This project received funding by the Ontario Government through the Skills Development Fund. It will assist Unifor Independent Part Supplier workers affected by the Electric Vehicle Transition to acquire training/upskilling to obtain meaningful and gainful employment in the growing EV sector.

Our first cohort of up to 24 individuals will begin training on Wednesday May 29, 2024. All training will take place in-person in the FCEM one evening per week and all-day Saturdays and Sundays. We anticipate this cohort to complete by October 30, 2024. NextStar Energy has guaranteed interviews upon completion of the program.





9. SRC/TSI Changeover Banquet

On Friday, April 19, 2024, the SRC and TSI held a joint Changeover Banquet at the St. Clair College Centre for the Arts. A great time was had by all. The outgoing and incoming SRC and TSI Executive are as follows:

<b>SRC:</b>	<b><u>Outgoing</u></b>	<b><u>Incoming</u></b>
<b>President</b>	Nour Takach	Rishi Vatish
<b>Vice President, Student Affairs</b>	Rishi Vatish	Harnoor Kaur
<b>Vice President, Downtown Affairs</b>	Khushi Patel	Vikas Sriram
<b>TSI:</b>	<b><u>Outgoing</u></b>	<b><u>Incoming</u></b>
<b>President</b>	Mikayla Welch	Rumeesa Begum
<b>Vice President</b>	Olivia Soresi	Suhas Rawal

We are looking forward to another great year working with the SRC and TSI in 2024-25!



## 10. 2024 Atelier Fashion Show

The 2024 Atelier Fashion show took place on Saturday, April 20, 2024. There was a VIP Reception held at 7:00 p.m. in the Eatery 101, followed by the Fashion Show in the Student Life Centre at 8:00 p.m. The College's Fashion Design students proudly presented the pieces that they meticulously crafted throughout their program. One of the highlights of the evening was when President Patti France modelled a jacket designed by Fashion Design student, Stephen Drouin. The sold-out event was a huge success and was the perfect venue to showcase our students' creativity, style and passion. *Way to go, Saints!*



ST. CLAIR  
COLLEGE

A T E L I E R  
F A S H I O N   S H O W

SATURDAY  
**20**  
APRIL 2024

Doors 7pm | Show 8pm

**10<sup>th</sup>** ANNIVERSARY

Student Life Center,  
St. Clair College  
2000 Talbot Road West, Windsor

Tickets:  
**\$25** / General – **\$50** / VIP  
Available on Eventbrite



**LiUNA1625**

# St. Clair College In The News

## Table of Contents:

Page	1 - 3	'Going to be some pain' — Windsor boosting stormwater fees for those with large parking lots Windsor Star - Mar 21, 2024
	4	Broadway's Ben Davis joins Windsor Symphony in concert March 23, 24 Windsor Star - Mar 22, 2024
	5	CK breaks ground for new year-round tennis dome CK NEWS TODAY - MARCH 23, 2024
	6 – 7	PHOTOS: St. Clair College Open House Fills Halls With Excitement WindsoriteDOTca - Saturday March 23rd, 2024
	8	Report released by Workforce Windsor Essex to highlight the local tech sector AM800 CKLW - March 24, 2024
	9 – 10	Windsor port authority looking at \$310K bill due to revamped sewer surcharge CBC News · March 28, 2024
	11	Suspect arrested in alleged St. Clair College campus sexual assault CTV Windsor - April 5, 2024
	12	UPDATED: Suspect Wanted In St. Clair College Campus Sexual Assault windsoriteDOTca News Staff - Thursday April 4th, 2024
	13 – 15	St. Clair College staff, students pay tribute to graduate Sylvain Lessard CBC News · Apr 05, 2024
	16	Police arrest 20-year-old in St. Clair College sexual assault case CBC News - Friday, April 5th, 2024
	17	St. Clair College students promote fitness, healthy lifestyles Windsor Star - Apr 09, 2024
	18	Suspect arrested in alleged St. Clair College campus sexual assault CTV Windsor - April 5, 2024
	19 - 20	Saints celebrate another campaign of athletic excellence Windsor Star - Apr 11, 2024
	21 – 23	PHOTOS: St. Clair Alumni Of Distinction Awards WindsoriteDOTca News - Sunday April 14th, 2024
	24 – 25	Walpole Island Chief Dan Miskokomon Visits the St. Clair College Powerline Training Centre College News - Tuesday, April 16, 2024
	26	Powerline Rodeo The Chatham Voice - April 18, 2024
	27 – 28	St. Clair College students bring Broadway musical CATS to Chrysler stage Windsor Star - Apr 18, 2024
	29 – 34	Star exclusive: Scorned 'Global Village' developer says deadlines met; still wants to build Windsor Star - Apr 19, 2024
	35	Bloom & Blossom fundraiser raising money for local youth association AM800 CKLW - April 20, 2024
	36	St. Clair College students lead fundraiser for at-risk youth summer program CTV Windsor News - April 21, 2024
	37 – 38	Cassidy to retire as president of Unifor Local 444 Windsor Star - Apr 21, 2024

# 'Going to be some pain' – Windsor boosting stormwater fees for those with large parking lots

Windsor Star - Mar 21, 2024



Parking lots are shown at the St. Clair College main campus in Windsor on Wednesday, March 20, 2024. PHOTO BY DAN JANISSE /Windsor Star

Windsor property owners with large parking lots can expect higher stormwater fees in the new year with the launch of a new runoff measurement system.

The city's new stormwater fee model, set to roll out in January, will place the onus on large business owners that produce more stormwater runoff, Windsor Mayor Drew Dilkens said at Monday's city council meeting.

"There's going to be some pain and I want to make sure that they have the opportunity to hear loud and clear that this is the direction council is going and provide feedback and get the information so that they can plan accordingly," he said.

Those with substantial impervious surfaces — which prevent water from absorption into the ground and thus produce more runoff during rain events — will pay higher fees.

"It's just the cost of doing the business at the college," John Fairley, vice-president of communications and community relations for St. Clair College told the Windsor Star Thursday.

"This is something new that is coming forward in 2025, but we just want to appropriately do our budgets going forward."

According to Dilkens, administration pinpointed 25 organizations that are the top stormwater contributors in the city. Along with St. Clair College, Stellantis's Windsor Assembly Plant and Walmart are on the shortlist.

"St. Clair College is one organization that is going to see a big change in their number because they have a lot of parking lots," said Dilkens.

"We understand and appreciate that this is an expense to them that needs to be managed from their side, which is why we're trying to give lots of notice so people can plan accordingly.



The new stormwater financing model was approved in 2021. However, city council voted in June 2023 to delay its rollout until the beginning of 2025 to allow for additional public outreach and education efforts.

Over the last few years, Dilkens said administration has worked closely with the top stormwater producers to help them prepare for the upcoming adjustments.

“They’ve been consulted with over the course of several years,” he said. “It is a major change.”

Fairley disputes that, however, saying St. Clair College only became aware of the changes when they received a package from the city in the mail three weeks ago announcing the topic would be presented before council this week.

On Wednesday, he contacted the city to schedule a meeting in the coming weeks in order to better understand the upcoming changes to the stormwater fee model.

“I do not have any knowledge about what the estimate will be,” he said. “That’s what we want to get for our budgeting purposes. That’s why a further meeting is needed.”



Some of the parking that surrounds the St. Clair College main campus in South Windsor is shown on Wednesday, March 20, 2024. DAN JANISSE/Windsor Star PHOTO BY DAN JANISSE /Windsor Star

Dilkens said there is no specific value assigned to each business; rather, the fee hinges on the extent of their impervious surface area.

Over recent years, administration has assessed each top stormwater producer to calculate the additional fees they will incur.

Business owners are encouraged to explore alternative surfacing options that allow greater water absorption into the ground, or to install catch basins that more gradually release stormwater into the system.

Fairley said St. Clair College has collaborated closely with engineers and the Essex Region Conservation Authority during construction of new buildings in light of numerous flooding incidents in the area over the last few years.

“We’re always part of the conversation because of our growth,” he added.

Fairley could not provide the exact square footage of St. Clair College’s parking lots, but said the majority surrounds its main campus in South Windsor.

“We certainly want to be a good neighbour,” he said, “and we also have to be a good participant in the community and pay what is asked of us.”

As for residential property owners, the mayor said they can expect no changes to their rates or, in some cases, reductions.

“There will be some impacts on businesses as we move along, where they’ll have to pay considerably more than they’re paying today,” said Dilkens. “But it’s really an equitable situation and putting the burden on the people that are producing the storm water.

“It takes some of the burden off the residential property owners and the homeowners, but it puts more of the burden of the cost on the Home Depots and the Walmarts where they have giant parking lots.”

Dilkens said this is an opportunity to engage large businesses and organizations to prepare them for the changes that are coming.

“It is a sensible change, but it is not cost neutral for everyone.”

# Broadway's Ben Davis joins Windsor Symphony in concert March 23, 24

Windsor Star - Mar 22, 2024



Broadway singer Ben Davis joins the WSO March 23 and 24, 2024, at the Capitol Theatre in downtown Windsor. PHOTO BY IMAGE COURTESY WINDSOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA /Windsor Star

Broadway actor and singer Ben Davis joins music theatre students from St. Clair College and the Windsor Symphony Orchestra in concert Saturday and Sunday at the Capitol Theatre.

Maestro Robert Franz will lead the WSO as it performs Broadway tunes from the Sound of Music, Rodgers and Hammerstein's Oklahoma!, Carousel, My Fair Lady and more.

## Article content

The WSO's partnership with St. Clair College allows the musical theatre students the opportunity to perform and interact with working artists, talented actors and singers from around the globe.

"We love it when programming allows for the musical theatre students to join us onstage," Franz said. "Their performance and energy enhance the concert and patron experience."

"This provides them with real-world, hands-on experience, and the opportunity to work with a world class Broadway singer as part of their development."

Performances are Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m., at the Capitol Theatre, 121 University Ave. W.

Tickets are available through [windsorsymphony.com](https://windsorsymphony.com)

! ) : J=9CK?JGMF< >GJ F=O Q=9JA'GMF< L=FFAK<GE =

CK NEWS TODAY - MARCH 23, 2024

Ground has broken on a new indoor tennis dome in Chatham that will operate year-round.

The groundbreaking ceremony took place on Thursday at the site on Bear Line Road and McNaughton Avenue in Chatham.

The \$2.2 million tennis dome will be part of a 20-acre regional park on lands donated by St. Clair College and is phase 1 of the park.

Chatham-Kent Mayor Darrin Canniff said it's a big first step for the regional park and called it "an amazing project."

Tennis Canada and Rogers donated \$200,000 in February for the covered tennis courts and the mayor thanked them along with St. Clair College for donating the land for the regional park and Hydro One for their contributions to the Bear Line park.

"We're honoured to be one of only six communities in Canada to receive funding from Tennis Canada and Rogers as part of their Year-Round Community Tennis Courts Program," said Canniff. "This tennis dome, and the entire Bear Line park, will provide another great venue for Chatham-Kent residents to have fun, learn new skills, and live more healthy and active lifestyles."

Stephanie Chapados and her husband Mark are getting much of the credit for pushing for the indoor tennis dome.

They previously told CK News Today they were tired of traveling to other communities to play tennis during the winter and want to grow the sport in Chatham-Kent.

"We want to grow tennis here, not only in the community, but hopefully regionally as well. This is a big win for everyone," said Stephanie Chapados.

Anyone interested in booking spring and summer lessons or team building activities can call 289-879-4600 or go to [tennisclubs.ca](https://tennisclubs.ca).

Ten pickleball courts, a cricket pitch, an outdoor pitch primarily for rugby, two sports courts, a playground and open play area, and a recreational trail are also planned for the regional park.

# PHOTOS: St. Clair College Open House Fills Halls With Excitement

WindsoriteDOTca - Saturday March 23rd, 2024



Future St. Clair College students are enjoying the campus today with the Spring Open House taking place Saturday.

The event allows for pupils interested in post-secondary at St. Clair College's various campuses to take a peek in to student life and what the institution has to offer all put on display at their south campus.

Information booths, open class rooms and work spaces, student services and much more are available throughout the open house while attendees are also given the opportunity to enter to win scholarships.







## Report released by Workforce WindsorEssex to highlight the local tech sector

AM800 CKLW - March 24, 2024



Workforce WindsorEssex releases report called 'The State of Tech: Insights into the Tech Sector in Windsor-Essex', highlighting the impact and vitality of the tech sector. Workforce WindsorEssex website

A new report released by Workforce WindsorEssex is aimed at helping identify local resources for tech workers in the region.

The report, called 'The State of Tech: Insights into the Tech Sector in Windsor-Essex', highlights the impact and vitality of the tech sector.

The local tech sector continues to grow and expand, providing essential support to the region, with Windsor-Essex's tech job growth outpacing the national average by three per cent. However, the local median salary is nearly \$10,000 less than the national median salary, making it difficult to retain talent regionally.

By expanding education and employment in the sector, the region can encourage further investments to keep tech workers local.

Kal Fakhreddin, Project Coordinator and Research Analyst with Workforce WindsorEssex, says the sector has grown, and will continue to.

"We've found that there is actually a lot more growth than we anticipated, so we found that there are over 6,000 tech workers in Windsor-Essex, and we found that there is an 8.6 per cent projected growth rate over the next five years which is a very good number, very promising."

She says tech jobs can expand over several industries. "It bleeds a lot into manufacturing and agriculture, two of our biggest industries here. And a lot of people don't know this but actually 59 per cent of all tech jobs are outside of the tech industry. So, here we see that a lot in Windsor because our economy is so diverse. So it's really not just the tech companies, but it's tech workers in other companies."

Fakhreddin says the University of Windsor and St. Clair College work to meet the needs of local employers. "I know they meet with them pretty often, and at the university and college level they both have co-op programs, and those get them into local tech companies, and they really learn the ropes. And the communication between the two are really good from what I can tell. High school, they also have a lot of tech courses being offered very early on, that's a great introduction for high school students to see if that's something they'd like to do."

Recommendations for employers include connecting more with local educational institutions, better learning of tech to prepare students for work after graduation, and to connect with newcomers.

The report can be found on the [Workforce WindsorEssex website](#).

## **Windsor port authority looking at \$310K bill due to revamped sewer surcharge**

Businesses, other organizations voicing concerns over new formula

CBC News · March 28, 2024



The record flooding in Windsor-Essex in August 2017 flooded more than 6,000 basements.

When the city's new sewer surcharge formula comes into effect next year, the Port of Windsor will be expected to pay \$310,000 a year on its 32 hectares of properties.

"We are looking for more information from the city as to why the port should be expected to contribute to that fund," said president and CEO Steve Salmons.

The figure comes from an assessment by consultants for the city of Windsor, Salmons said. He's seeking a meeting with the city to see if a compromise can be found.

Windsor will adopt a new system for arriving at charges for wastewater and stormwater in 2025. The new formula, part of the city's sewer master plan, gives residents a break on what they pay and makes larger customers pay more.

That's because the stormwater fee is based on how much impervious surface area a property has. Properties with plenty of concrete or asphalt — like businesses or organizations with big parking lots — will be seeing increases.

The fee change comes after record flooding in 2016 and 2017, and significant increases in spending to manage the sewer system over the years.

The City of Windsor is changing the way it calculates its sewer surcharge on property owners following flooding and higher precipitation levels. And the mayor says big business will be paying more — not homeowners. CBC's Dalson Chen explains.

Salmons says other than their offices on Sandwich Street, the port properties along the Detroit River don't contribute to runoff into the sewer system.

"We have self-contained drainage," said Salmons. "Our water is well protected and then it's drained back into the Detroit River directly. So we don't impact municipal storm water systems in most cases."

Salmons also questions whether the city has the authority to levy the surcharge on a federal entity such as the Port Authority.

Tim Byrne, the CAO of the Essex Region Conservation Authority, agrees organizations which either reduce the amount of runoff they contribute or don't contribute at all should get some special consideration from the city.



"And so to assess today the same rate for another property, just on square footage or area it needs to be tweaked and it needs to have further considerations," said Byrne.  
Ward 9 Coun. Kieran McKenzie, who sits on the city environment committee, agrees it would be fair to take into account an organization's special circumstances.

"So if there are special circumstances on certain properties where the water isn't going directly into the sewer system I think it'd be more than reasonable for the city to be engaged with those partners," said McKenzie.

"But at the end of the day, we're searching for a system that's, from a tax perspective, fair for everybody."

Chamber of Commerce president Rakesh Naidu says several businesses have raised concerns to the chamber and St. Clair College vice president John Fairley says the college also has concerns about how the new surcharge would affect the college.

## Suspect arrested in alleged St. Clair College campus sexual assault



CTV Windsor - April 5, 2024

Windsor police say a suspect they were seeking has been arrested.

They said the suspect is wanted for an alleged sexual assault on the St. Clair College campus. Police say he turned himself in at police headquarters on Thursday.

Members of the Major Crimes Unit launched an investigation after receiving a report that an adult female was sexually assaulted on the college's Talbot Road campus on the evening of April 1.

While on campus, police say an unknown man engaged the victim, led her to a stairwell, and sexually assaulted her. The female left the campus and later contacted police.

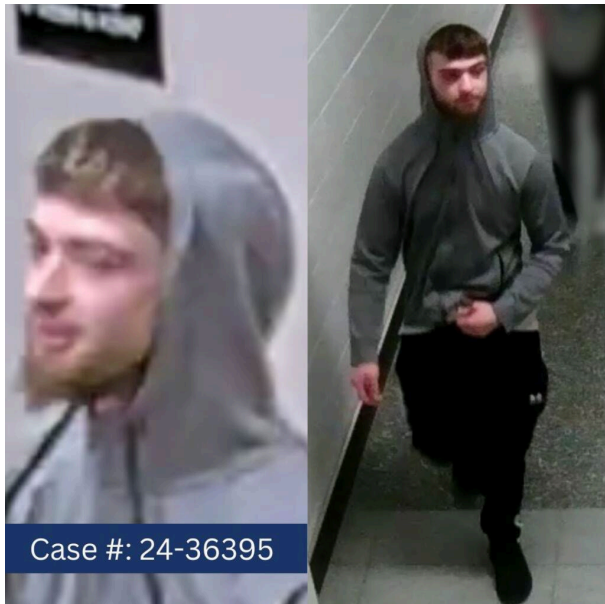
Police would like to thank those that helped their investigation by reaching out to investigators with information, allowing them to identify the suspect.

He faces charges of sexual assault and forcible confinement.

Anyone with further information is asked to call the Major Crime Unit at 519-255-6700, ext. 4830. They can also contact Windsor & Essex County Crime Stoppers anonymously at 519-258-8477 (TIPS) or online at [www.catchcrooks.com](http://www.catchcrooks.com).

# UPDATED: Suspect Wanted In St. Clair College Campus Sexual Assault

windsoriteDOTca News Staff - Thursday April 4th, 2024



**Last updated: Thursday April 4th, 9:03pm**

Police reported at 8:30pm Thursday that the suspect has been identified.

## Original Story

Windsor Police are seeking the public's help in identifying a suspect wanted for a sexual assault on the St. Clair College campus.

Police say they launched an investigation after receiving a report that an adult female was sexually assaulted on the college's Talbot Road campus on the evening of April 1st, 2024. While on campus, an unknown male engaged the victim, led her to a stairwell, and sexually assaulted her. The female left the campus and later contacted the police.

The suspect is described as a white male with dark hair and a dark beard, between 5'6" and 5'9" tall. At the time of the incident, he wore a grey hooded sweatshirt, dark pants with white stripes, and dark shoes.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Major Crime Unit at 519-255-6700, ext. 4830. They can also contact Windsor & Essex County Crime Stoppers anonymously at 519-258-8477 (TIPS) or online at [www.catchcrooks.com](http://www.catchcrooks.com).



# St. Clair College staff, students pay tribute to graduate Sylvain Lessard

Lessard was killed in a car crash last October while on his way home from hockey practice

CBC News · Apr 05, 2024



Sylvain Lessard's parents presented the winning students of the 2024 Powerline Rodeo at St. Clair College with a trophy. The award was renamed in honour of Lessard for the 2024 rodeo. (Submitted by Mark Benoit)

Members of the St. Clair College lineman program honoured Sylvain Lessard, the 20-year-old graduate of the program who died in a car accident last year, at Thursday's annual Powerline Rodeo in Chatham.

In honour of the former student, the award presented to the winning group was renamed for this year as the Sylvain Lessard Award. Lessard's family presented the award named after their son.

The powerline rodeo is a day of games and competitions, with events like pole top rescue and a climbing relay, for students in the power lineman program to test their skills.

"It was very emotional," Adrian Viselli, a teacher in the lineman program, told CBC Radio's *Windsor Morning* host Amy Dodge.

"I've been involved in quite a few of these rodeos, but yesterday was one of the best ones that I've ever been involved in."



Sylvain Lessard, 20, will be remembered as a talented hockey player, a hard worker and an all-around "good kid." (Submitted by Lakeshore Canadiens/Facebook)

Viselli says those who knew Lessard will remember him as being a good person all around.

"He was a heck of a hockey player. A good student. You see 150 kids a year [as a teacher] but there are certain kids who kinda stick out to you."

Lessard was killed on County Road 42 while returning from a hockey practice with the Lakeshore Canadiens last October.

Lessard [has been described](#) by his former hockey team as a "great teammate and a joy to be around at all times."

"He was [the] instant life of the party," said one of Lessard's former teammates, Josh Carnevale, following the hockey player's passing.

"Whether we were up by a lot or down by a lot, he was always trying to drive the group."

Josh Carnevale, head coach of the Wheatley Omstead Sharks, explains how the team paid tribute to 20-year-old Sylvain Lessard, who was killed in a car crash this week.

In addition to his hockey skills, Lessard was a talented linesman who made the work "look effortless," according to Viselli.

"He loved the outdoors. He loved the challenge. Cold, warm, rain, didn't matter, that's what he wanted to do," said Viselli. Viselli believes the hands-on nature of the job and ability to spend time outdoors is what attracted Lessard to the field of work.

Lessard started working with Windsor Power and Light — a job Viselli helped him land — shortly before he was killed.



Sylvain Lessard was a talented linesman according to one of his former teachers at St. Clair College, Adrian Viselli. (Amy Dodge/CBC)

In addition to the rodeo, the school will also honour Lessard by hanging his family's favourite picture of him — in which he's climbing a Hydro pole, sticking his tongue out at the camera — in the building.

"The picture is going to be in our building until the building comes down. It's a great thing to look at every day," said Viselli.



# **Police arrest 20-year-old in St. Clair College sexual assault case**

CBC News - Friday, April 5th, 2024

College says its stepped up patrols in wake of the incident

Windsor police have made an arrest after a report of a sexual assault at St. Clair College's South Windsor campus this week.

Police, who circulated an image of the man they say is the suspect on Thursday, said Friday that a 20-year-old man has turned himself in.

The assault took place at the college's Talbot Road Campus on the night of April 1.

"While on campus, an unknown male engaged the victim, led her to a stairwell, and sexually assaulted her. The female left the campus and later contacted police," police said in a social media post Thursday.

The man arrested faces charges of sexual assault and forcible confinement.

## **St. Clair steps up patrols**

John Fairley, the school's vice-president of communications and community relations, told CBC the school has followed the instructions of Windsor police and taken steps in response to the incident. The college has spread word through its online channels, and is reminding students of resources like the Safe Walk escort program for people with concerns about walking around campus or to their car at night.

"At the time we heard of the incident, we immediately increased patrols," Fairley said, prior to the news of the arrest.

The school also has counselling and other services available to help students in distress.

"If there's something that someone needs to talk about, or it may bring something up in someone's life that they need to talk about, we have many services that are available on the website of the college," he said.

He acknowledged the school has received some criticism for not publicizing the incident sooner, but said they had to follow procedures.

"That's kind of a misunderstanding that we haven't done anything. We've been doing a lot of things quietly... but until we are directed by Windsor police of the situation — we've followed the guidelines."

# St. Clair College students promote fitness, healthy lifestyles

Windsor Star - Apr 09, 2024



Ekasdeep Toor, 8, enjoys some cotton candy Saturday, April 6, 2024, during the Fitness Fest24, organized by students in the event management program at St. Clair College. The all-ages event was held at Forest Glade Arena.

Push-up challenges, balloon-busting races and karate demonstrations were all part of the fun Saturday during a fundraising fitness festival organized by students in the event management program at St. Clair College.

Participants of all ages took part in tai chi, yoga, dance aerobics and more at the Forest Glade Arena, while also enjoying healthy — and some not-so-healthy but more fun — snacks.

“We studied the theoretical aspects but we also need to do the practical of what we have learned over the course of our program,” said student organizer Deborah Odueke.

In addition, the students partnered with a non-profit organization and raised funds for the group. They chose the Canadian Mental Health Association.



Ikas Kuma assists Karlyn Pena, 11, do her first head stand Saturday, April 6, 2024, during the Fitness Fest24, organized by students in the event management program at St. Clair College at Forest Glade Arena.

Ekasdeep Toor, 8, had his face painted and then enjoyed a big bite of tasty cotton candy, while 11-year-old Karlyn Pena learned how to do a head stand.

“It was really hard,” Pena said afterward.

Pena was assisted by University of Windsor grad Vikas Kumar, who demonstrated his own headstand skills by remaining in the posture for more than two minutes.

“I love to tell people how you can improve your day-to-day activity and you can upgrade your mental health,” Kumar said, adding he was trying to promote fitness and a healthy lifestyle for others.

# Suspect arrested in alleged St. Clair College campus sexual assault



CTV Windsor - April 5, 2024

Windsor police say a suspect they were seeking has been arrested.

They said the suspect is wanted for an alleged sexual assault on the St. Clair College campus. Police say he turned himself in at police headquarters on Thursday.

Members of the Major Crimes Unit launched an investigation after receiving a report that an adult female was sexually assaulted on the college's Talbot Road campus on the evening of April 1.

While on campus, police say an unknown man engaged the victim, led her to a stairwell, and sexually assaulted her. The female left the campus and later contacted police.

Police would like to thank those that helped their investigation by reaching out to investigators with information, allowing them to identify the suspect.

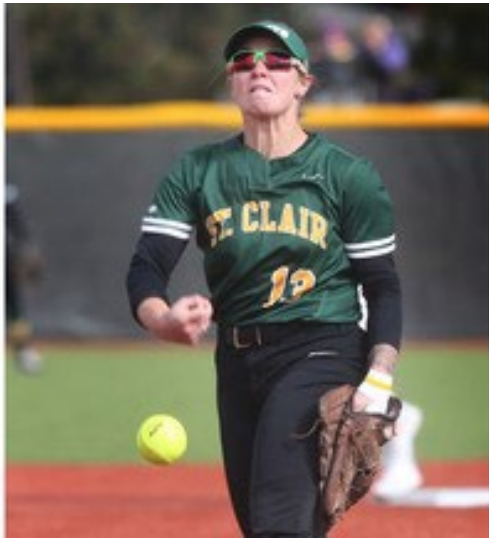
He faces charges of sexual assault and forcible confinement.

Anyone with further information is asked to call the Major Crime Unit at 519-255-6700, ext. 4830. They can also contact Windsor & Essex County Crime Stoppers anonymously at 519-258-8477 (TIPS) or online at [www.catchcrooks.com](http://www.catchcrooks.com).



# Saints celebrate another campaign of athletic excellence

Windsor Star - Apr 11, 2024



For the second year in a row, softball's Bryanna Kressler won the St. Clair Saints' female Al Hoffman female Athlete of the Year Outstanding Achievement Award.

The St. Clair Saints boast some of the top college athletic programs in the province and across the country.

On Thursday, players, coaches and families gathered as the Saints celebrated another campaign that left the school with plenty to brag about.

Article content

“We thought last year was going to be a year we couldn’t surpass and, by all accounts, this year was probably our best in history,” said St. Clair’s Ron Seguin, who is vice-president of international relations, campus development and student services. “We were competitive across all 14 teams. They were all in contention and we won four provincial and a national title.”

The 55th St. Clair College Athletic Awards banquet at the St. Clair Centre for the Arts was a chance for the school to celebrate those achievements as well as bid farewell to some athletes.

“It’s the toughest part,” Seguin said. “Kids are here for three or four years. They’re recruited and arrive and, before you can blink, they’re done and it’s tough on them.”

Two of those departing athletes were honoured with the Mason MacDonald Graduating Athlete of the Year Award, which is given to the graduating male and female athlete that display outstanding athletic abilities while maintaining an exemplary academic performance along with school involvement.

Basketball’s Jesiah Deerr took the award on the men’s side while volleyball’s Kiana Huggins claimed the award on the women’s side.



The St. Clair Saints Jesiah Deerr, centre, was named the Mason MacDonald Graduating Athlete of the Year Award on the men's side. PHOTO BY DAX MELMER /Windsor Star

Deerr finishes his career as the program's eighth-leading scorer all-time and the school record holder with 306 three-point shots made. He won gold and silver at the OCAA level with the Saints and a national silver medal. Along with conference recognition and sixth man of the year awards on the court, he is also a two-time conference all-academic selection and was named an academic all-Canadian this year.

# PHOTOS: St. Clair Alumni Of Distinction Awards

WindsoriteDOTca News - Sunday April 14th, 2024



The 31st Annual Alumni of Distinction Awards honoured six St. Clair College alumni Saturday evening.

The 2024 recipients of St. Clair College's Alumni of Distinction come from diverse backgrounds, but they have all reached great success in their chosen fields. This year's list of honourees will bring a total of 137 graduates recognized by the College since 1992.

"What is always heart-warming about our Alumni of Distinction isn't just the phenomenal success they've enjoyed in their professional lives, but how they've passed along their knowledge and skills as mentors to foster the success of others and given invaluable service to their communities in ways unrelated to their occupations," said St. Clair College President Patti France. "They truly are the best ambassadors of Saints Nation and all that it stands for, academically and in terms of service to the community."

## The honourees for St. Clair College's 31st Alumni of Distinction Awards are:

- **Ursell Arends, Vice Prime Minister of Aruba**  
Graduated in 2005 from the International Business Program and is being honoured as a graduate of Business and IT.
- **David Cassidy, President of Unifor 444, Windsor, Ontario**  
Graduated in 1991 from the Electrician Construction Maintenance Program.  
He is being honoured as a graduate of the College's Apprenticeship Program.
- **Larry Delaey, President and CEO Aarkel Group in Wallaceburg, Ontario**  
He graduated in 1989 from the Mold Making Technician Program.  
He is being honoured as a graduate of Technology / Engineering.
- **Chaouki Hamka, Community Leader, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), Correctional Officer, South West Detention Centre**  
Graduated in 2009 from the Law and Security Administration Program and is being honoured as a graduate of Community Studies.



- **Dan MacDonald, Radio Host at CKLW Radio – Bell Media, Windsor, Ontario**  
He graduated in 2002 from the Journalism Program and is being honoured as a graduate of Media Art and Design.
- **Bhupinder Singh, Professional TNA Wrestler, Windsor, Ontario**  
He graduated in 2018 from the Human Resources and in 2019 from the Event Management Program and is being honoured as a Recent Graduate (past 5 years) of the College.







# Walpole Island Chief Dan Miskokomon Visits the St. Clair College Powerline Training Centre

College News - Tuesday, April 16, 2024



Today, Chief Dan Miskokomon's of Walpole Island First Nation visited our National Powerline Training Centre at St. Clair College's Chatham campus was not just a homecoming, but a poignant reminder of the intersection between education, heritage, and community service. As a proud alumnus of St. Clair College, graduating in 1970 as a Mechanical Drafting Technician, Chief Miskokomon's journey from student to chief reflects a deep commitment to both his personal development and the advancement of his people.

During his visit, Chief Miskokomon emphasized to the students and faculty, the vital role of trades in the region, drawing attention to the significance of the lands on which powerlines are installed, lands belonging to his people. His engagement with powerline students and faculty underscored the importance of acknowledging Indigenous perspectives in vocational training and infrastructure development.

Beyond his academic achievements, Chief Miskokomon's story resonates with resilience and determination. A former member of the St. Clair College Saints Hockey team, hockey was more than a sport—it was a way of life for him. His decision to attend St. Clair College, driven by the presence of a hockey team, marked the beginning of his academic journey and paved the way for future accomplishments.

While Chief Miskokomon pursued further education at Western Michigan University and the University of Phoenix, his heart remained rooted in his community. Returning home, he dedicated himself to serving his people, initially as Walpole Island's Economic Development Planner before embarking on a distinguished political career. Elected as Chief multiple times, his leadership has been instrumental in spearheading initiatives ranging from education and infrastructure development to international trade partnerships.

Chief Miskokomon's contributions have not gone unnoticed. In 2017, he was rightfully recognized as one of St. Clair College's Alumni of Distinction, a testament to his outstanding achievements and unwavering commitment to improving the lives of those around him.

As Chief Miskokomon continues to advocate for his community and bridge cultural understanding, his journey serves as an inspiring example of the transformative power of education, perseverance, and service.

He was elected Chief for the first time in 1988 and has served many terms as Chief since his first election. He was re-elected for a two year term in September 2022.





# Powerline Rodeo

The Chatham Voice - April 18, 2024



St. Clair College recently held its ninth annual Powerline Rodeo.

Students competed in 10 events over two days: pole top rescue, don't break the egg, ring the bell off spurs, insulator change, installing storm guys, grounding leap frog, installing grounds off spurs, RBD hand signal, frame off the pole, and team climbing relay.

The college has 150 students in its powerline program. In fact, St. Clair is the largest provider of the powerline technician program in the province.

A total of 22 employers came out to view the rodeo.

As well, organizers gave out a rodeo award in honour of Sylvain Lessard, a powerline graduate, who died in a car accident in the fall of 2023.



# St. Clair College students bring Broadway musical CATS to Chrysler stage

Windsor Star - Apr 18, 2024



St. Clair College performing arts students are shown during a rehearsal of the musical CATS on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at the Chrysler Theatre in Windsor. PHOTO BY DAN JANISSE /Windsor Star

St. Clair College performing arts students hope to inspire audiences to support the Windsor-Essex County Humane Society as they put a modern twist on the perennial stage musical CATS.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's classic masterpiece, based on T.S. Eliot's poetry collection titled Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats, delves into themes of acceptance, love, forgiveness and the impact of one's legacy.

Director and choreographer Kristyn Wiklanski hopes the themes will resonate deeply with audiences, stirring emotions and sparking introspection.

Wiklanski also said her aim is to honour the essence of CATS while infusing it with a modern-day flair.

"My vision for the choreography is to maintain the intensity and shape of the original while adding contemporary elements," Wiklanski said.

Donation boxes for the local humane society will be placed at the entrance to the Chrysler Theatre during the production, with proceeds going towards adoption programs, humane education initiatives, cruelty investigations and a pet food bank.

"We are proud to support the Windsor-Essex County Humane Society and their important work in our community," Wiklanski said.

"Through this partnership, we aim to make a meaningful difference in the lives of animals in need and promote compassion and kindness towards all living creatures."

Full Board Meeting:

April 23, 2024

Media Report

27 of 38



St. Clair College performing arts student Gracienne Swarbrick is shown as Grizabella during a rehearsal of CATS on Tuesday at the Chrysler Theatre in downtown Windsor. PHOTO BY DAN JANISSE /Windsor Star

CATS, the fifth-longest-running Broadway musical, is set in a mystical world inhabited by the Jellicle cats on the night the cats gather to make the “Jellicle choice” — determining which cat will ascend to the Heaviside Layer and be reborn into a new life.

One of the most challenging aspects of staging CATS is that it lacks a traditional script.

Wiklanski and the cast embraced the challenge, delving into character research and development to create a cohesive and compelling narrative.

As well, to bring the production to life, students will dance, sing and act.

“My vision for the choreography is to maintain the intensity and shape of the original while adding contemporary elements,” Wiklanski said.



St. Clair College performing arts students are shown during a rehearsal of the musical CATS on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at the Chrysler Theatre in Windsor. PHOTO BY DAN JANISSE /Windsor Star

The production’s cast includes Gracienne Swarbrick as Grizabella, Marot Sammartino as Munkustrap and Alex Wyant as Rum Tum Tugger.

“CATS is a show that demands triple threats and our students fit the bill perfectly,” Wiklanski said.

“They possess the strength in dance, vocal prowess and acting ability required to bring this production to life.”

CATS opened April 17 at the Chrysler Theatre, 201 Riverside Dr. W.

Performances Wednesday to Saturday at 7:30 p.m., plus a matinee performance Saturday at 2 p.m.



# Star exclusive: Scorned 'Global Village' developer says deadlines met; still wants to build

Windsor Star - Apr 19, 2024



Randy Ruttenberg, principal at Fairmount Properties, provides an update on the planned redevelopment of the site of the former Grace Hospital, while Mayor Drew Dilkens looks on, at City Hall on Oct. 12, 2022. A little over a year later, city council would kill the project, and the matter is now before the courts.

The Ohio-based developer suing the City of Windsor for abandoning a \$142-million west-end build over alleged project delays argues the company was working within an agreed-upon timeline.

A confidential document obtained by the Windsor Star and signed by representatives from both the city and Fairmount Properties Inc. gave the company until last Dec. 29 to sign a development agreement for the former Grace Hospital site — but council quashed the project nearly a month before that deadline.

The letter of intent between the city and Fairmount also details several future deadlines, including rezoning the land by July 31, 2024, securing a building permit by Dec. 31, and substantial building completion by July 31, 2026.

In an interview with the Star, Fairmount Properties founder Randy Ruttenberg said council's Dec. 1 closed-door decision to kill his company's Global Village project left them scratching their heads.

"We are not going away," Ruttenberg said. "We have an exclusive right to develop this project and intend on doing so."

"We have a tremendous amount of human and financial capital invested in Windsor and are prepared to spend a small fortune, one the taxpayers of Windsor will likely (also) spend, fighting about this."

"This project is a major economic development boon for the city, one they unanimously selected as a governmental body, and a project with a timeline that was absolutely, unequivocally being met."

Council's decision to part ways with Fairmount came one day after a Nov. 30 deadline to negotiate — but not to sign — a development agreement and an agreement of purchase and sale. The company had submitted a revised purchase price on Nov. 28, and the city claims the parties were unable to settle an agreement by deadline. That led to the project's demise, a court document filed by the city said.

Earlier this year, Fairmount submitted a notice of application to Ontario Superior Court to fight council's decision. The document requests an order to quash council's in-camera resolution to terminate negotiations.

between the city and Fairmont, as well as an order compelling the city to resume negotiations with the company.

In an email to the Star, city spokesperson Jason Moore said city council unanimously agreed to terminate the agreement with Fairmont.

“Legal advice was diligently followed by city council, city administration, and the mayor throughout negotiations and discussions with Fairmont.

“Given this matter is now before the courts, communication between the parties will be handled by the respective legal representatives and not through the media.”

Fairmont was announced as the winning developer for the high-profile property in July 2020 following a request for expressions of interest for six acres at the corner of Crawford Avenue and University Avenue West just west of the downtown.



A concept drawing made public in 2022 of Fairmont Properties’ proposal for the six-acre former Grace Hospital site west of the downtown that would have seen the property transformed into a mixed-use International Village anchored by residential, retail, dining, office and open space. The consortium behind the winning bid also included Windsor-area firms Architecttura and Oscar Construction Company Limited. PHOTO BY IMAGE COURTESY OF CITY OF WINDSOR /Windsor Star

In its August 2019 submission to the city, Fairmont proposed a “vibrant and dynamic mixed-used International Village” with retail and dining amenities at street level and higher density residential and office units on upper floors, as well as a medical practice. More recently, the company said the development would include roughly 700 rental units.

The company’s vision, the submission said, focused in part on creating an “inter-generational community” that “embraces and celebrates Windsor’s international culture and identity.”

The submission stated the company also aimed to provide “new, modern, and safe housing options for Windsor’s higher-ed student population” and to “stop the brain drain” of international students educated in Windsor moving away after graduation.

In its lawsuit against the city, Fairmont alleges that Dilkens “inexplicably expressed opposition to the redevelopment including student housing to representatives of St. Clair College.” It also alleges the mayor “communicated his purported frustration” to college reps that the educational institution was partnering with Fairmont.

The month before council cut ties with the company, St. Clair College announced a memorandum of understanding with Fairmount to accommodate up to 400 students annually at the former Grace site. The college called it a “geographically convenient” location, since almost all of the students living there would be enrolled at St. Clair’s nearby downtown campus.

“There was never a question that this (development) was about student housing,” Ruttenberg said.

When council’s decision to end the relationship with Fairmount was made public on Dec. 4, Dilkens told the Star council wanted to see the project happen more quickly.

“I think it’s fair to say we just didn’t see the amount of traction that we hoped to see to really make us feel this would lead to a real project in a timely manner,” Dilkens said at the time.

Fairmount’s notice of application to Superior Court alleges the “city failed to provide notice” to Fairmount and other stakeholders “that it was considering terminating negotiations,” and that “the city acted in bad faith in a process tainted with bias and influence of special interests.”

The notice of application alleges Dilkens made “false and defamatory statements” in the news media that the property’s development was “unacceptably delayed.”

The city has not yet filed a response to Fairmount’s notice of application. Its deadline to do so is in May.



The former Grace Hospital site west of downtown Windsor and looking north towards the Detroit River is shown Dec. 5, 2023. PHOTO BY DAN JANISSE /Windsor Star

In a statement of defence in response to a separate defamation lawsuit by Fairmount, the city says the mayor’s statements were “made in good faith, responsibly, and without malice,” and he “believed in the truth of the facts” in his statements.

The city’s statement of defence said the defendant — the mayor — “states that he had a duty to update the constituents of the City of Windsor as to why the redevelopment of the property with Fairmount was cancelled.” Windsor constituents had “reciprocal interest” in being told the reasons for the redevelopment’s cancellation, the document claims.



It adds that the mayor's statements "were made honestly and in good faith, and are therefore protected by qualified privilege."

According to the city's statement of defence, the company originally set deadlines that required "predevelopment due diligence" to be completed by August 2021, financing by March 2022, and final construction by July 2024. The company and city were to enter into a development agreement by June 2021, the city claims.

"The plaintiff (Fairmount) failed to meet any timelines set out in the development schedule," resulting in a revised development schedule from the company in June 2023, the city wrote.

Ruttenberg acknowledged his company had missed deadlines set out in its original agreement with the city. For that, he blamed the COVID-19 pandemic, which closed borders and kept his American company out of Windsor. He also blamed unforeseen inflationary pressures on construction and material costs.

A new agreement signed in September had extended deadlines, and "the slate was wiped clean," Ruttenberg said.

### *What good partners do is work together*

The company's lawsuit claims that, on Nov. 9, the city proposed — and Fairmount agreed in writing — to further extend the timelines to negotiate the development agreement and the agreement of purchase and sale.

The lawsuit alleges the extensions "were agreed to solely as a result of city-caused delays and not as a result of any actions or commissions by Fairmount."

"What good partners do is work together," Ruttenberg said. When the city requested an extension for its part of the project, he added, Fairmount agreed: "That's what good partners do."

"It's so hypocritical to point to delays that were mostly out of our control, and to forget about the delays that you caused," he said.

In its defamation statement of defence, the city claims that Fairmount submitted a revised purchase price for the west-end property two days before the deadline (Nov. 30) for a finalized development agreement and agreement of purchase and sale (APS). Fairmount's price was \$2 million, while the city's appraisal of the property was \$4.75 million.

"With only two days left to negotiate the development agreement and APS, the city and the plaintiff were unable to settle the development agreement by the deadline of November 30, 2023. The city thereafter terminated negotiations," the city wrote.

Following news of council's decision, Fairmount made four unsuccessful attempts to contact Dilkens directly "to try and understand what they were thinking," Ruttenberg said.

According to Ruttenberg, Dilkens did not respond.

"The secretness of how this went down is unlike anything we've ever seen. We've asked for details, we've asked for clarification, and we've got nothing," Ruttenberg said.

### *We are not walking away under any circumstances*

The Star asked the city whether it was true that Fairmount attempted to contact the mayor after council's decision and the mayor did not respond. The city did not answer the Star's question.

The letter of intent signed by Fairmount and the city last fall states that it is “non-binding” except for the clause that gives Fairmount the “exclusive right to develop and purchase the lands” under the document’s terms and conditions.

“We have a tremendous amount of investment in this project that we are not walking away from under any circumstances,” Ruttenberg said. “We have a tremendous amount of heart and soul in this initiative.”



Another artist rendering made public in 2022 of the proposed Grace Hospital site development proposed by Fairmount Properties. PHOTO BY IMAGE COURTESY OF CITY OF WINDSOR /Windsor Star

Last month, Dilkens announced plans to invite private housing development on five city-owned properties: the Caron Avenue parking lot, the Pelissier Street parking lot, the Roseland Golf and Curling Club clubhouse and parking lot, the former W.D. Lowe property, and the former Grace Hospital site.

In his email to the Star, city spokesperson Moore said council’s “primary focus remains on reissuing the expression of interest (EOI) to the development community as part of the Housing Solutions Made for Windsor plan.

“Concurrently, ongoing efforts are taking place to ready the lands for development, ensuring a seamless and efficient process once a developer is chosen through the EOI selection process.”

*We don’t want to lose another day*

In December, Dilkens told the Star the city will work to re-zone the former hospital land and complete a site condition report while it awaits submissions from other interested developers to expedite future residential development.

“We don’t want to lose another day,” Dilkens said at the time.

“We’re going to do that work. We’re not going to wait for an EOI to happen, a new proponent to be selected, and then let them do the work. We want to keep moving,” Dilkens said in December.

Ruttenberg noted his company was not afforded the same assistance from the city.

The letter of intent signed by the city and Fairmount in September indicated the company was responsible for rezoning the land and obtaining a record of site condition, and that the company had to apply for rezoning at its own expense.

Despite the lack of assistance from the city, Fairmount is not abandoning Windsor, Ruttenberg said.

Fairmount has completed “hundreds of hours” of meetings with local residents to gain input on the Grace site project, he said. Filling a gap in medical care was important, the company learned, and as a result, it secured a group of doctors to practice in office space in the Global Village.

By cutting ties with Fairmount, Windsor would miss out on a “destination” for the community where residents can “park once and spend the entire day doing different types of activities,” Ruttenberg said.

“We humbly guarantee this would be a project that all of Windsor will be very proud of,” he said.

In 2019, the company’s Pinecrest build in Cleveland — a mixed-use development with retail, dining, entertainment, residential, hotel, and office space — won gold in the International Council of Shopping Centres Global Awards for North American Design and Development.

Fairmount Properties has spent more than US\$1.3 billion developing properties in the United States, according to Ruttenberg.

The Global Village in Windsor would have been the company’s first foray into the Canadian market.

“This project is very important for us,” Ruttenberg said. “We are fortunate as a company to get to look at a lot of different opportunities.

“It would be simple to walk away from this and move on to something else. We’re not doing that. We’re excited about this project on so many levels.”



# Bloom & Blossom fundraiser raising money for local youth association

AM800 CKLW - April 20, 2024



St. Clair College & McBride Youth United  
Association Presents



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!



LIVE DJ | FOOD | DRINKS | DESSERTS | NETWORKING  
| SILENT AUCTION & MORE!

For more info Contact: Aulterlee Porte 226 - 246- 6886 | Yesmina Captan 226 - 260 - 0998

Website for tickets: [www.eventbrite.com/e/the-bloom-and-blossom-fundraiser-tickets-860373308727](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-bloom-and-blossom-fundraiser-tickets-860373308727)

Students at St. Clair College are raising funds in support of a local youth organization this weekend.

The Bloom & Blossom Fundraiser, taking place on Saturday, April 20, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Harbour House will raise funds for the McBride Youth United Association (MYUA), a not-for-profit organization dedicated to uniting the youth of Windsor-Essex County through mentoring and educational programs.

The association's mission is to provide children and teenagers in the community with essential life skills, strong interpersonal skills, and pro-social friendships.

St. Clair College student Hanna Magraw, who's assisting with the event, says it will feature a variety of activities.

"We're raising funds for their Summer Recreation Program. We're calling it our Bloom & Blossom fundraiser. You can get a ticket at the door or online on Eventbrite, and it's \$30. That includes a meal, there's also a silent auction and people can also meet local pageant girls with Miss Windsor there, along with Miss LaSalle and Miss Tecumseh," she said.

She says the Summer Recreation Program plays a crucial role in the lives of many young individuals in the community.

"Youth mentoring and emotional well being programming that they have every summer. It's like a basketball camp too, and it's really for the inner city youth in Windsor. They have it every summer and we're just hoping to raise more funds so more kids can go to camp."

Magraw says the McBride Youth United Association is involved in a lot of recreational activities.

"For young adults and children in the area. They do a lot of after school programs, summer camp programs, and they're just really engaged in uplifting. Providing a community and support network for kids in the local area," she said.

Anyone interested can find [tickets here](#) and more information can be found on their [Facebook page](#)

# St. Clair College students lead fundraiser for at-risk youth summer program



Brandon McBride, right, stands alongside St. Clair College event management students at a fundraiser for the McBride Youth United Association. Pictured on Apr. 20, 2024.

CTV Windsor News - April 21, 2024

When event management students at St. Clair College were assigned to organize a fundraiser for a non-profit organization, Aulterlee Porte's group chose to host an event at the Harbour House to help the McBride Youth United Association.

"They prioritize helping kids, whether that's eliminating poverty within Windsor-Essex, providing mentorships and this fundraiser is specifically to help raise funds for their summer recreation program," Porte said Saturday.

The McBride organization was co-founded by Herman Secondary School graduate and former Olympian Brandon McBride who represented Canada in the 800-metre in Brazil (2016) and Tokyo (2021).

"We are going to provide recreational programs, sport, arts and crafts to at-risk youth on Tuesdays and Thursday for the entire summer," said McBride, describing how the fundraiser will help.

"We just want to create a safe space where youth can come and hang out and be exposed to different activities that they normally wouldn't be exposed to."

McBride added the number of people reaching out to assist with the program is "a lot more than we can handle" at times.

"Some of our programs, we don't even advertise on social media because we know we would get an overwhelming number that reach out."

The McBride Youth United Association has extended its programs to various organizations and their youth as a means of testing them, McBride added.

The purpose is to gather valuable information and data for presentation to potential major funders which can demonstrate the efficacy of their programs over the past few years, showcase their positive impact on youth and outline a comprehensive plan for future endeavours.

"So we can go to a big funder and say, 'Here's how many youth we think we can impact with X amount of dollars,'" said McBride.

# Cassidy to retire as president of Unifor Local 444

Windsor Star - Apr 21, 2024



Dave Cassidy, president of Local 444, is pictured with his Chrysler Pacifica outside his home in Essex on Thursday, April 22, 2021. PHOTO BY DAX MELMER /Windsor Star

Dave Cassidy, who has led workers in unionized workplaces ranging from Stellantis's Windsor Assembly plant to Caesars Windsor, is retiring after six years as president of Unifor Local 444.

On the eve of submitting nominations on Tuesday for a new Local 444 executive board, Cassidy announced his retirement Sunday on a Facebook post.

"Reflecting on our journey — from where we started to where we stand today — fills me with confidence and peace as I announce my retirement as your president and an employee of Stellantis," Cassidy wrote.

"Together, we have weathered numerous challenges. From bidding farewell to our built-right Dodge Caravan to navigating the hardships brought on by the cancellation of shifts amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, these were tough times for our hardworking members and their families."

As president of Local 444, Cassidy represents 20,000 active and retired members from 31 workplaces. Earlier this month, he was recognized with a distinguished alumni award from St. Clair College.

Cassidy, who has been a tenacious voice of labour in Windsor during his time as president, has been a member of the national executive board of Unifor, the largest private-sector union in Canada, since Unifor was founded in 2013. Before that, he had been a member of the Canadian Auto Workers national executive board from 2008 to 2013.

"Through our collective efforts, every member has been called back to work, significant investments — both from the company and the government — have been secured, new vehicle models are in production, a new battery plant is near completion, and the promise of a third shift looms on the horizon, ensuring a brighter future for all our members," Cassidy wrote.

“I’ve always acted with the best interests of our Local in mind. I have followed my conscience and done what I thought was right. You may not always agree with some of the tough decisions I have made. But I hope you agree that I was willing to make the tough decisions.”

His Unifor biography says Cassidy started his apprenticeship as an electrician after high school when he began working at Chrysler Canada in 1993. His elected positions include shop floor steward, skilled trades chairperson at the Chrysler Windsor Assembly Plant, and president of the Windsor/Essex County Skilled Trades Council.

In 2021, he launched a bid to become the national president of Unifor, ultimately losing to current president Lana Payne.

Those wishing to stand for election for one of the 14 Local 444 executive board positions have until 5 p.m. Tuesday (April 23) to turn in their acceptance to the election committee chairperson.

Cassidy’s retirement announcement automatically triggers an election, with advance poll on May 3 and election dates on May 8 and 9.