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MEDIA RELEASE

Conestoga College Commitment is Excellent News for Local Employers

Kitchener, ON – Today’s financial commitment from the Government of Ontario towards the expansion of Conestoga College is welcome news for businesses and employers across Waterloo Region, says Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce Chair, Ross Wells.

A series of studies and reports generated nationally, provincially, and locally have consistently indicated that potential skills shortages of a significant magnitude will evolve in the future. The Conference Board of Canada estimates Ontario could deal with a shortage of more than 360,000 skilled employees by 2025, escalating to 560,000 by 2030.

“Increasing our training and educational capacity is critical for addressing future workforce demands,” said Wells. “College President, John Tibbits, and his staff have worked with employers on identifying where local shortages will occur, and the proposed expansion will address those deficits. This is another local solution to a local issue.”

Conestoga College is generally undersized for its community and catchment area, and the increased capacity will focus on services for immigrants and displaced manufacturing sector workers. Local employers anticipate that many graduates from Conestoga’s programs will commence and build their careers across Waterloo Region in high-demand occupations such as construction, food services, and health care.

“Businesses need skilled workers to remain competitive in global markets, and the community requires vital services such as health care,” said Wells. “Today’s announcement is critical for ensuring we are prepared to move forward.”

With over 1900 members, the Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce is the largest accredited chamber of commerce in Ontario. The Chamber is dedicated to enterprise productivity and regional prosperity. Since 1886, it has been the voice of business in greater Kitchener Waterloo.

For further information contact:

Ross Wells, Chair
Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce
(519) 575-7513
ross.wells@gowlings.com