

# HOUSE TO HOME



**CHRIS**   
**LEWIS MP**  
ESSEX

35 VICTORIA AVENUE, ESSEX, ON N8M 1M4 || CHRIS.LEWIS@PARL.GC.CA || CHRISLEWISMP.CA || 519-776-4700

SERVING YOU SINCE 2019

APRIL 2021

## Dear Constituents:

Friends, you have faced rolling lockdowns, loss of revenue and income, lay-offs, job losses, delays in the promised income supports and uncertainties about the vaccine roll-out - the timeline and safety, who gets it and when. The Canada-US border remains closed affecting many of you personally and professionally. None have faced more loss than our seniors in Long-term Care. I have seen firsthand the toll all this has taken, including the uncertainties you have faced. Your concerns are my concerns.

I will continue to represent you...ESSEX. My staff and I are here to serve you. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Warmest Regards,

Chris Lewis MP, Essex



## MANUFACTURING STRUGGLES WITH CROSS BORDER BUSINESS

On March 30th, I discovered further proof of the need to allow essential business to continue cross border when I visited REKO International Inc. Group in Lakeshore. This state of the art, advanced, manufacturing building was looking to get the buy-in of an international customer for phase 2 and phase 3 of their current contract but the representative coming to check the work and negotiate was turned away at the border. Why are truck drivers coming back and forth on a daily basis, but representatives that will help ensure the future of manufacturing turned away? Manufacturers are more than willing to ensure that health protocols are adhered to while representatives make their visits. If things don't change this will cost our area millions of dollars that will go to other manufacturers in the US or Mexico! Thank you to REKO's CEO, Diana Reko, and, CFO, Catia Longo, for the insightful meeting and tour of your amazing facilities! I am proud to know businesses like this are in my riding. I have brought this issue and a petition to the House of Commons so that Minister Blair, who is in charge of the Border, can hear about the impact current border policy is having on this industry in the Windsor-Essex region. (Please see page 3.)



For full statements and articles please visit:

<https://chrislewismp.ca> OR [www.facebook.com/ChrisLewisEssex](https://www.facebook.com/ChrisLewisEssex)

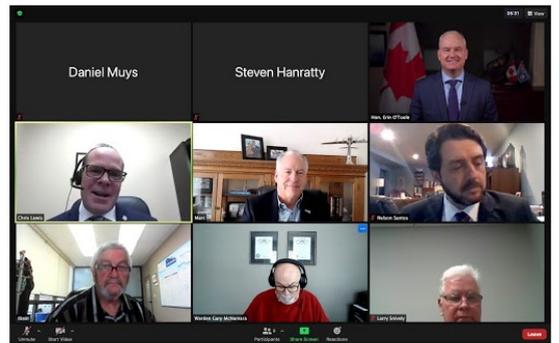
## NEW BUSINESS SENDS A MESSAGE OF HOPE DURING PANDEMIC



The first ever urban farm store in Canada opened up on March 19th in the Town of Kingsville. Ortaliza is an urban farm store located on Main Street. Every item sold by Ortaliza is grown within the store itself. According to the founders, Alvaro and Carina Biacchi, their food is high in nutrients and flavour!!

This amazing operation combines greenhouse growing with a fresh produce store to bring to the area some of the freshest food you can eat. It is amazing to me that this young family began such a cutting edge business during the current challenges. We need more brave and ingenious entrepreneurs like this to help get our economy back on track. Well done Carina and Alvaro!!!!

## Leader's Tour of Essex



### Unions

### Chamber of Commerce

### Mayors

It was an honour for me to host a virtual tour of Essex with the Leader of the Conservative Caucus, the Honourable Erin O'Toole. Meetings included the local Unions, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Municipal Mayors. The Leader took time to listen to representatives from various industries and these important stakeholders and to answer their direct questions about how he would address these issues in Ottawa. MP O'Toole also expressed how much he has enjoyed Windsor-Essex on his multiple visits to our region. Of course, to visit Essex County is to love it - so much to offer, so much potential, so much diversity. We are a true microcosm of Canada.

## PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR LOCAL LEGIONS

I was pleased to announce, in January, that four local Royal Canadian Legions in the riding of Essex – Amherstburg, Kingsville, Lakeshore and Essex - received funding through the Veterans Organizations Emergency Support Fund (VOESF). Legions in small communities across our region and our nation provide invaluable community services and supports, not just to our Canadian Forces veterans, but also to the broader community. With the pandemic shut-down, local Legions have been unable to host activities and events that provide vital income to cover their overhead costs such as rent and utilities. Revenues have declined drastically while costs have increased. Many legions were on the brink of closing permanently.

Thankfully, all of the Legions in Essex remain operational. Conservative MPs have been championing this cause for months. The emergency support fund is welcome news. Legions are asking for \$30 million dollars in support. Over half of the Legions in Ontario have received a subsidy during this first Phase. The local legions that applied, each received the maximum amount of \$10, 845.05. I was pleased to join the Royal Canadian Legion Executive in Essex to announce their funding. (see photo) My deepest thanks and appreciation to all our local Legions and their dedicated volunteers for working so hard to keep your branch operational in these trying times.



## BORDER ENQUIRIES

My office is often faced with border crossing questions like: "Am I considered an essential traveler?", "Am I required to provide a PCR molecular test before arriving at the Canadian border?", "Which is the correct COVID test?", "Am I required to quarantine when I return home?", "What if I had the COVID vaccine already?" You can find the answers to these questions and more at the Government of Canada website by going to:

<https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid/travel-restrictions/driving-canada-checklist>

# MP LEWIS TAKES PETITION TO OTTAWA ON BEHALF OF MANUFACTURERS



On March 23rd, I spoke at a press conference at Cavalier Tool & Manufacturing Ltd. In Windsor showcasing the challenges at the Canada-US border for local manufacturers. These business owners, their employees, and their customers face quarantine and/or hefty fines every time they cross the border to transact business. This has on-going, long-term, implications for trade, commerce and well—paying manufacturing jobs in the Windsor-Essex region. Future contracts and jobs are at risk.

I received a petition from the Windsor-Essex Border Task Force, calling on the Federal Liberals to provide clarity and certainty at the border. I was honoured to bring this important petition to Parliament on behalf of these essential businesses and the thousands of affected workers in our region. In the House of Commons I called on Public Safety Minister Blair to take immediate action!



**“I stand shoulder to shoulder with legal firearms owners. We know that the only solution to gun violence in our inner cities is stop illegal handguns from entering our borders and to get tough on the gangs responsible for the violence. Trudeau knows this too. So does Minister Blair. The scapegoating needs to stop.”**

(Media Statement on Kingsville Resolution)  
CHRIS LEWIS MP, ESSEX



## HAVE YOUR SAY

**AT WHAT STAGE DO YOU THINK THE BORDER SHOULD RE-OPEN?**

ANSWER

**HOW HAS THE CANADA-US BORDER CLOSURE AFFECTED YOU PERSONALLY?**

ANSWER

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**“LEAVING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE THAN I FOUND IT”**

✉ Chris.Lewis@parl.gc.ca

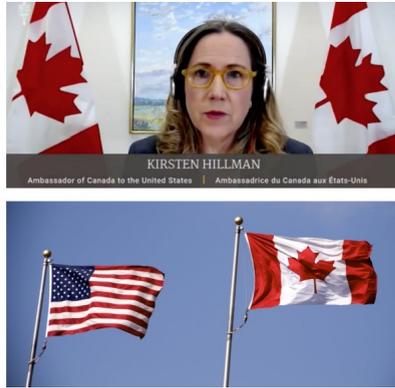
🌐 www.chrislewismp.ca

📘 /ChrisLewisEssex

🐦 @ChrisLewisEssex

📷 /ChrisLewisEssex

# REPRESENTING ESSEX IN PARLIAMENT



## MP LEWIS TAKES ON NEW ROLE AS A MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN CANADA-U.S. (CAAM).

Above, MP Lewis questions Canada’s Ambassador to the U.S. about what can be done for cross border business. His focus— the steep toll that the uncertainty at the border is having on small and medium sized manufacturers doing essential business in the U.S. The exchange ended with Chris asking for President Biden’s phone number. After initiating ongoing conversations with his Caucus colleagues about the importance of Canada’s economic relationship with the US, it was a great honour for MP Lewis to be appointed as one of 4 Conservative Members on this 12 Member panel within the newly created Special Committee studying Economic Relations between Canada and the US.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN THE RIDING OF ESSEX

MP Lewis addresses the House of Commons. Showcasing the importance of black history to Essex County and to the “Canadian tapestry” Mr. Speaker, the Amherstburg Freedom Museum is in my riding, in the Town of Amherstburg. The Museum tells the story of black slaves seeking refuge in Canada by the Underground railway. Pioneers who built homes, businesses, schools and churches in Essex County. The first black national historic site in Canada, founded in 1966 by Melvin Simpson, the Museum showcases their vital role in the “Canadian tapestry”.

Elise Harding Davis, Curator Emeritus, and celebrated black Canadian history consultant, can trace her own Canadian ancestry back seven generations. Elise has worked tirelessly to preserve black history in Canada for the next generation. Finally, a salute to Claudius Thomas. Claudius leads the local chapter of “Black Boys Code” - a national organization founded to prepare black youth for success in today’s technology-dominated economy. All leaving the world a better place than they found it.



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

Like those early women rights champions and those who followed in their footsteps, “let’s choose to challenge”. May we raise our voices today and every day in support of full gender equality and an end to the scourge of human trafficking, this ongoing genocide in China and wherever women’s rights are being violated around the globe. With resolve, full equality for all women is within our reach. Let’s leave the world a better place than we found it.” (Excerpt taken from Chris’s Statement on International Women’s Day. The full text can be found on Facebook, website or twitter.)



1. DETACH



RETURN, POSTAGE FREE  
NO ENVELOPE REQUIRED

To: CHRIS LEWIS  
MP ESSEX  
Room 402  
Justice Building  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

2. FOLD



3. TAPE

# THE ESSEX REPORT