

ST. THOMAS & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Canada Ontario Job Grant Consortium for local businesses

**March 23, 2016
For Immediate Use**

The St. Thomas and District Chamber of Commerce is announcing the launch of a Business Development Consortium to support local businesses in St. Thomas and across Elgin County.

The consortium, established in collaboration with Newport Training Group Inc., will provide workforce development and company growth solutions to member businesses. Newport will also assist local employers with employee skills upgrading that bolster their growth goals.

Delivering value will be accomplished by the Consortium linking local businesses to the Canada-Ontario Job Grant. Funded on a per-employee basis, the Canada-Ontario Job Grant qualifies each company employee for up to \$15,000 in non-repayable grants. Employers contribute a third of the contribution (\$5,000 of the \$15,000).

“This is a multi-faceted approach where skills improvement dollars are available for any level of an organization,” explained Bob Hammersley, President & CEO of the St. Thomas and District Chamber of Commerce. All workforce development including essential, technical, business interpersonal and operational skills can be part of an application for the grant.

Newport’s local operation in St. Thomas is led by Leith Coghlin who will integrate participating area businesses into the Consortium.

“We are pleased to be working with businesses in St. Thomas and the surrounding area,” said Coghlin. “Newport’s 26 years of success with clients are as a result of our personalized approach and understanding business owners’ focus on growing their company’s valuation, delivery of their products and services efficiently, and expanding their client base.”

-30-

For further information please contact:

Leith R.A. Coghlin
Project Manager
Newport Group Inc.,
St. Thomas, ON
226-210-0029
stthomas@newportgroup.ca
www.newportgroup.ca/stthomas

Bob Hammersley
President & CEO
St. Thomas & District
Chamber of Commerce
519-631-1981
bob@stthomaschamber.on.ca
www.stthomaschamber.on.ca

