

“Leadership” Scrum
Monday, November 26, 2007
The Windsor Star Online Edition

Mayor Francis: Over the next several weeks I will be issuing letters of invitation to individuals from across our community calling on people and individuals from different organizations from the Chamber of Commerce, to the labour and union movement, looking for people of different positions in this community to come together to have a discussion in terms of how the City of Windsor can work together in one direction.

Obviously dealing with some of the economic challenges that we're dealing with is going to require a significant effort. It's going to require significant resolve. It's also going to require the collective effort of everyone of every group of every organization.

So I will be issuing those letters in the next several weeks, hoping that the individuals will respond positively and hoping by pulling everyone to the same table we'll be able to get common, or rather a common understanding and appreciation for what it is that we're dealing with and what it is that we need to do to show great leadership in moving this city forward.

So we'll have more information for you.

Reporter 1: How many invitations are going to be going out Eddie?

Mayor Francis: Again, it's not going to be a number I'm trying to reach to but to a broad representative group from across the community and I don't have any particular number fixed.

Reporter 2: Including labour?

Mayor Francis: Yes, I just said including labour. Absolutely, labour needs to be included.

Reporter 2: Is this going to lead to a formation of a committee?

Mayor Francis: No. Listen. We don't need committees. The challenges that we have cannot be challenges that are resolved by studying them to death. We know what it is we need to do. We know what the challenges are. We know what the obstacles are. We know that we have a certain common reality that we need to address with common purpose and common resolve. And we know we have the tools.

The question is whether or not all these individual groups in the city are prepared to come together and work together for the interests and the common objective of moving this city forward.

And we're at a time right now where the city requires all groups, again from the labour

hall and the chamber boardroom and across different sectors of this community.

All individuals and all groups, this is the time for us to come together and commit that we're going to work together to move this city forward.

Reporter 1: What exactly are you inviting them to? Is it a forum? You're saying you're not inviting them to a committee, what is it that you're inviting them to?

Mayor Francis: I'm inviting them to the table where we can have a frank and honest discussion in terms of what we are prepared to do to come together to move this city forward.

Reporter 2: Now it's just you or full council?

Mayor Francis: No, right now it's going to be something that I'm going to lead. I'm asking them to come...it's going to be a working session. We need to have an honest and open discussion. It's going to be frank in terms of identifying the challenges that we have and identifying what it is we need to do collectively as a group to move this forward. We can't have people pulling in 50 different directions. It's counter-productive.

Right now the community deserves all individuals from positions across the city to come together to commit with us a united front and who are prepared to make things happen.