



## **News Release**

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For Comment/Background: John Geha, CEO, 519-641-1400

### **Commercial Emerge Conference Brings Prominent Industry Leaders to London**

London, ON – In collaboration with the Ontario Real Estate Association (OREA), the London and St. Thomas Association of REALTORS® (LSTAR) announced today's Commercial Emerge Conference drew dozens of people across the region, featuring senior industry leaders and influencers who discussed commercial real estate and retail market trends, issues and opportunities impacting southwestern Ontario and beyond.

"There was an incredible wealth of knowledge and expertise on display today, with one of the most powerful lineups of leading experts involved within commercial real estate," said John Geha, LSTAR CEO. "Bringing these experts together to address what's happening in the industry helps us manage the changes impacting the business today, and provide greater support to our Members to deliver the highest value to those they passionately serve."

One of the central themes of the conference explored the trends impacting the commercial, industrial and retail sectors, as well as land development trends from several perspectives – North America, Canada, Ontario and regional. The relationship between Canada and the United States was also examined, focused on how foreign tax and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) affect the major sectors of the market.

"Changes are happening now and with London's geographical location, we have a tremendous opportunity to further grow the city as a major regional economic engine," Geha said. "When you consider the breakthroughs in artificial intelligence and smart technology, steady growth in the city's tech and digital media sector, and various transportation initiatives such as the forthcoming Gordie Howe International Bridge connecting Ontario and Michigan, the momentum continues to build."

The conference featured an engaging presentation from Amy Erixon, Principal and Managing Director of Investments for Avison Young. Erixon spoke about real estate technologies and their implications on the marketplace and how these emerging areas can be leveraged in the commercial real estate space.

More than 100 people across Ontario attended the all-day conference, including LSTAR Member REALTORS®, business, government and community leaders and influencers, as well as commercial and industrial industry professionals.

*The London and St. Thomas Association of REALTORS® (LSTAR) exists to provide our REALTOR® Members with the support and tools they need to succeed in their profession. LSTAR is one of Canada's 15 largest real estate associations, representing over 1,700 REALTORS® working in Middlesex and Elgin Counties, a trading area of 500,000 residents. LSTAR adheres to a Quality of Life philosophy, supporting growth that fosters economic vitality, provides housing opportunities, respects the environment and builds good communities and safe neighbourhoods and is a proud participant in the REALTORS Care Foundation's Every REALTOR™ Campaign.*

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