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STANDINGSTRONG



Local ironworkers protest near the site of a new firehall under construction in Amherstburg on Tuesday at Meloche Road and Simcoe Street. The workers claim non-unionized labour who are not from the area are working at the site. A3

Big-ticket budget a boon for area, say local leaders

Buy Canadian policy should yield direct benefits for Windsor-Essex

TREVOR WILHELM

Local leaders say Windsor-Essex can benefit greatly from the federal government's big-ticket budget unveiled Tuesday, with ambitious plans to fight U.S. tariffs, boost defence spending and diversify trade.

Canadian Senator Sandra Pupatello told the Star that plans including major infrastructure investments and military spending, combined with a new Buy Canadian policy, will yield direct benefits on her home turf.

"I think it was a very interesting budget, because it was a dichotomy of a story," said Pupatello, a Windsorite and longtime Liberal. "One is the sort of belt tightening that we need. Then the other side of it, as a Windsorite understanding, thank goodness, they put money in those kinds of programs that will help us."

The Liberal government hailed the release of its first budget under Prime Minister Mark Carney as the start of a "new era of leadership and a new economic foundation." It calls for \$141 billion in new spending over the next five years, which will partially be offset by billions in cuts and other savings. But it also projects a deficit of \$78 billion for 2025-26.

The Liberal government said one key focus is strengthening Canadian sovereignty in uncertain politi-

cal and economic times. As the government heads down a path of what it calls "generational" spending, Pupatello said it's vital to regions feeling the brunt of U.S. tariffs - such as Windsor-Essex — that there is a Buy Canadian

She said it will help companies "slapped with tariffs," adding that such a policy has "never really been in print before." SEE BUDGET ON A5

New legal misconduct plan 'a no-brainer'

EMMA JARRATT AND ROBERT CRIBB

In a groundbreaking move toward greater transparency, the Law Society of Ontario (LSO) has committed in principle to publicly disclosing details when lawyers and paralegals commit crimes or professional breaches.

The move follows a two-year

investigation by the Investigative Journalism Bureau (IJB) into the law society's decades-long practice of withholding such information, even in cases involving high-risk conduct by legal pro-

In a Sept. 25 vote, the LSO's Professional Regulation Committee passed motions that will, for the first time, require that criminal guilty pleas and convictions be posted on the public registry for prospective clients to see.

"I strongly and unquestionably believe members of the public have the undeniable right to know this information," vice-chair of the regulation committee Jonathan Rosenthal said in a written statement.

SEE LAWYERS ON A4

Judge queries sentence request Circle K thief

DOUG SCHMIDT

A Windsor judge wants the defence and prosecution to justify their joint recommendation that a serial robber should be sentenced to two years less a day in jail.

Luke Lachance, 37, was arrested and charged by Windsor police last spring following a late-night robbery spree of multiple convenience stores across the city and Tecumseh.

In each instance, Lachance was masked and armed with a knife, threatening harm to the usually lone store clerks if they didn't hand over cash from the till and other items, usually cigarettes but also beer.

Citing the "nine knifepoint robberies," and questioning whether it was an "appropriate sentence" given the severity of the crimes, Ontario Court Justice Scott Pratt adjourned a sentencing hearing on Tuesday. He instructed counsel for both the defence and the Crown to return with examples of previous court decisions that might justify

such a sentence. SEE ROBBER ON A6