

A platform for prosperity and growth

By: Sandra Dueck, Policy Analyst, Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce

In just over eight months Ontarians will be going to the polls to vote in the 2018 provincial election. As a result, we've crunched data and looked at the policy resolutions from Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade right across the province to determine the priorities of the Ontario and by extension Peterborough business community. These priorities have become a series of proactive recommendations for all Ontario political parties to consider to ensure growth for the province's economy.

"93% of Peterborough Chamber members are small business. They support working families in our local community and across the province, and that's why candidates from every party in every community will want to become familiar with Vote Prosperity," said Stuart Harrison, President & CEO, Peterborough Chamber of Commerce. "Ontario's business community is prepared to be bold about making suggestions for ensuring future growth and with Vote Prosperity we are seeking to motivate our political leaders to follow."

Vote Prosperity is based on four aspirational pillars

- 1. Strengthen business competitiveness:** Rising input costs, especially those costs deriving from government regulation and policy, are the

most common and acute concern of the business community in Ontario.

- 2. Foster Job Creation:** A robust labour market consisting of good jobs is essential to prosperity for all Ontarians.
- 3. Build Healthy Communities:** Building strong communities through adequate and affordable housing, sustainable health care, and good infrastructure also supports business prosperity and growth, which supports those communities.
- 4. Improve Government Accountability:** Poor implementation of government initiatives can result in resource waste, political frustration and disruption for ordinary citizens.

In all, the platform provides 18 unique recommendations that will help bolster Ontario's long-term economic future, while addressing the pressing issues Ontario currently faces.

Two of the policy resolutions making up the recommendations were originally authored by the Peterborough Chamber of Commerce.

- Modernize the apprenticeship system through the journeyman to apprentice ratio to help alleviate some of the challenges employers face to recruit journeymen to hire additional apprentices

This recommendation is the result of the challenges faced by businesses in the trades and often in smaller urban and rural areas. Adjusting the



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ratio to recognize the needs of these businesses offers the opportunity for apprentices to train where they go to school (Kawartha Trades and Technology Centre for example) and work and live in communities right across the province, not just built up urban areas.

"We are glad to see our work around apprenticeship ratios be recognized in this report," adds Harrison. "Our members have been telling us that this is an area for improvement, so to have it be part of the election dialogue is a good step forward."

- Conduct and publish the results for a comprehensive review of the electricity sector, including an objective economic impact analysis assessing the full range of inputs that make up the Global Adjustment (GA), and then pursue cost-reducing measures based on the results.

Electricity rates have increased significantly in the past decade and in moving forward successfully we believe it's important to have the proper understanding of the system, what goes into the final charge on bills and mitigation factors that are sustainable.

"Ontario businesses have made it clear that the ever-rising costs of doing business from all levels of government has hindered their ability to prosper and grow," said Karl Baldauf, Vice President of Policy and Government Relations and the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. "Our objective is to achieve coherent, comprehensive pro-growth policies from all political parties. Our recommendations provide a prosperous path forward because when you vote for prosperity, Ontario wins."

The provincial election is June 7, 2018.

Workshops announced for 2017 Business Summit

The 2017 Business Summit is a morning event aimed at professional development for our Peterborough business community.

This year's Breakfast Conversation is an interview with Rhonda Keenan, President & CEO, Peterborough & The Kawartha's Economic Development

From there participants will have the opportunity to choose two workshops to attend.

Workshops:

- 1A: Bill 148 & Federal Tax Changes**
OR
- 1B: The Best Kept Secret in Business - Staying Visible**
- 2A: Marijuana & The Workplace**
OR
- 2B: Taking the Mystery Out of Procurement**

If you're not sure which to choose, make the 2017 Business Summit an

opportunity to bring your team and swap notes.

Each workshop features a panel of speakers and will include an opportunity for Q&A.

Tickets can be purchased by going to peterboroughchamber.ca/business-summit-2017.html

Or by calling the Chamber at 705.748.9771



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Event Calendar



TUESDAY,
November 7th, 2017

PBX @ Lett Architects Inc.

138 Simcoe Street,
Peterborough



4:00pm – 6:00pm

Details: Join us to learn more about this award-winning business. "Lett Architects provides architectural, planning and interior design consulting services."

PBX is a great opportunity for the business community, employers, consumers, and community agencies to make valuable connections.

Bring your business cards and get ready to get connected to the Peterborough business community.

Cost: Free, courtesy of Shorelines Slots at Kawartha Downs



TUESDAY
November 14th, 2017

The Carousel
116 Lansdowne Street East
Coffee's on at 7:00am

Speakers from 7:30-8:30am

Speaker: Jessica Correa, Random Acts of Green

Details: Jessica will be speaking about the steps a business can take to incorporate sustainability measures into the workplace.

Be ready with your 30-second elevator pitch to tell others what's going on in your business.

Cost: Pay for your breakfast



WEDNESDAY
November 15th, 2017
(Chamber & WBN Members only)

Crafting Your Own Brand Story

Chamber Boardroom
175 George Street North

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Speaker: Jane Davidson,
Writing Coach

Details: This free, noon hour series is open to Chamber members and WBN members interested in professional development and connecting with fellow members. Located in the Chamber boardroom, you are invited to bring your lunch along with you, and have the opportunity to listen to a short presentation, followed by Q&A.

Cost: Free (Bring your lunch)

Sponsor: Bell

Note: Pre-registration required

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November 22, 2017
7AM - 11:30 AM

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Two decades of making inside spaces beautiful

Congratulations to Angie Chapman, owner of Interiors Just For You on marking 20 years in business. Angie is also one of 30 #lovelocalptbo sponsors in 2017. Learn more about Angie and why she feels it's important to #lovelocalptbo by

watching her video on the Peterborough Chamber YouTube Channel at youtube.com/user/PeterboroughChamber.



Silver Anniversary for local jewellery store

Happy 25th Anniversary to Hi Ho Silver. The business is a unique, "gem of a store", featuring Canadian and international labels, custom design, vintage and estate

style products, and more. Located in downtown Peterborough at 329 George Street North.

More: hihosilver.ca

Accolades keep rolling in for local museum

Lang Pioneer Village Museum has been named Ontario's Top Small Museum as chosen by the people. The award is presented by Attractions Ontario.

The museum also recently received the Local Focus award at the Peterborough Business Excellence Awards.

More: langpioneervillage.ca

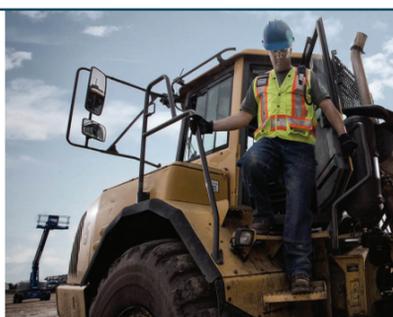
Send your member milestones to reception@peterboroughchamber.ca

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Trent Valley Honda @TVHonda · Oct 26
A big shout out to @RickysPtbo for keeping our community volunteers fuelled for their day of building and supporting change! #lovelocalptbo

Habitat Peterborough @HabitatPtbo
Build site volunteers never go hungry! #Thanks Cindy & team @RickysPtbo for providing hearty lunches. We appreciate your generous donation!

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