

What Peterborough businesses would like to see in budget 2018

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

This coming Wednesday, March 28th, the 2018 provincial budget will be delivered in the Ontario legislature. Earlier this year the Peterborough Chamber of Commerce sent a letter to Finance Minister Charles Sousa and Peterborough MPP and Minister for Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and Minister Responsible for Small Business Jeff Leal highlighting three priority areas for Peterborough business.

1. Helping businesses transition under Bill 148 legislation
2. Public transportation projects that ensure economic competitiveness
3. Encouraging strong and healthy communities by encouraging strong municipalities

Helping businesses transition under Bill 148

This provincial budget cycle is of particular importance to many of our Chamber members as it will be the first budget with the opportunity to implement cost mitigation measures around significant legislative changes to the Employment Standards and Labour Relations Acts. It is anticipated that the impact of these changes will be felt for some time, possibly up to two years. As a result, businesses will require transitional help as was given after the approval to move to a Harmonized Sales Tax (HST).



For example:

- Introduce a two year tax credit program that allows employers to recoup up to 32% of costs (e.g. Human Resources, legal consultants, increased accountant time, etc...) as a result of Bill 148.
- Allow Enforcement Officers to issue warnings - as opposed to fines - for first time offenders on infractions related to the changes legislated in Bill 148.
- Establish a 'Reward the Good Players' approach to recognize employers who have consistently demonstrated positive employment and labour practices.
- For new legislation that shows an economic impact to small business or employers develop a framework for a defined implementation time frame.

Public transportation projects that ensure economic competitiveness

For Peterborough one of these projects is upgraded freight and passenger rail. In the past decade, the Ontario government has contributed to engineering studies and we thank them again for those investments. Currently,

the provincial government is a partner with the federal government on a freight rail analysis for the Peterborough-Toronto-Havelock-Blue Mountain line. We encourage timely analysis around this project as freight considerations were part of the aforementioned engineering study and the current VIA Rail proposal that is before the federal government.

An upgraded rail line through the heart of southern Ontario along with the upcoming completion of the 407 extension to the 35/115 will offer significant economic benefits to the province as a whole and to eastern Ontario in particular.

Encouraging strong and healthy communities by encouraging strong municipalities

The Peterborough Chamber is a proponent of a request to increase the 'Heads and Beds Levy'. The current rate of \$75 has not been adjusted in 30 years and we believe that increasing it to \$100 and then attaching any future increases to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) will help municipalities and more closely reflect the cost of providing services.

We thank Minister Leal for his response to a previous request to

increase the heads and beds levy and agree that while uploading to the province has resulted in savings to the municipality, more can be done. The heads and beds levy is one that gets at the heart of municipal challenges – cost of infrastructure and providing services to residents. A rate that has not been adjusted in 30 years may not be reflective of the current requirements and is worth re-examining.

Peterborough businesses are looking for a province that is flexible and able to anticipate changes in the marketplace in a way that doesn't slow down the economic wheel, but rather improves its efficiency and function, so that Ontario reaps the benefits.

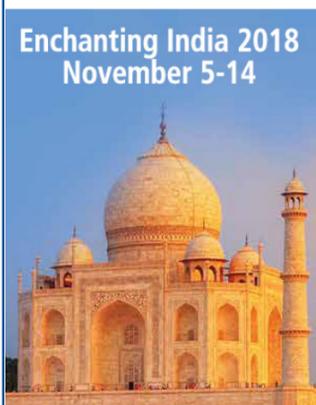
The Peterborough Chamber will have post-budget reaction and identify the pieces important to Peterborough. Earlier this week the Lieutenant-Governor delivered a speech from the throne. The speech provided a general overview of the government's policy commitments around the theme of 'care' rather than specific details.

For more on the throne speech and provincial budget check out the Chamber blog: peterboroughchamber.ca/blog



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Bookmark our Vote Prosperity webpage

With the 2018 provincial election on June 7th, the Peterborough Chamber is committed to informing our members about important issues. To that end we have built a webpage on which you'll find:

- The Ontario Chamber Network business platform *Vote Prosperity* featuring 18 recommendations including one from Peterborough on apprenticeship ratios

- A link to send a letter to the provincial party leaders
- Links to basic information on the three ridings that will include Peterborough City and County

Watch for more info on debates and surveys over the coming weeks.

peterboroughchamber.ca/provincial-election-2018.html



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Our members do it all!

GREATER Peterborough Chamber of Commerce STRENGTHENING BUSINESS

Canoe Museum gets some help paddling to their new location

The Canadian Canoe Museum joined forces with The Publican House Brewery to create the brewery's Paddler's Ale, with some profits going to the CCM. Recently, the Publican House presented the CCM with a \$7,289 cheque toward its \$36-million fundraising campaign.



Publican House Brewery via Facebook

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Chamber members, send your Member Milestones to reception@peterboroughchamber.ca or call 705-748-9771 x0.

#LOVE LOCALPTBO
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BE Catering @BECateringPTBO · Mar 14
We start with #Organic Eggs from Yorkshire Valley Farms, #Local Smoked Bacon from #Otonabee Meats and round it out with #Heirloom Potatoes from Martins Family Farm of Campbellford. #lovelocalptbo



Celebrations & Congratulations

- Peterborough-based **Laridae Communications Inc.** announced that it has attained its B Corporation Certification
- Congratulations to **The Willow's Bark**, winner of the Peterborough Downtown Business Improvement Area's Win This Space contest
- The **Kawartha World Issues Centre** is hosting a Global Youth Day Conference on March 23, 2018

Event Calendar

VOICE OF BUSINESS **FRIDAY**
March 23rd, 2018

Small Business Access Lunch

Venture North Boardroom
11:45am - 1:30pm

Details: Learn about Small Business Access and the programs and resources available to help Ontario small businesses.

Cost: Free; Lunch included.
Note: Pre-registration required.



AGM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING **TUESDAY**
March 27th, 2018

Peterborough Golf & Country Club
1030 Armour Road **Bell**

7:30am-9:30am
Details: City & County Planning Directors will be speaking about the future of the region including official plans, growth predictions and opportunities.

The Peterborough Chamber will be providing members with a recap of 2017.

Cost: \$20/Member
\$30/Non-Member

Note: Pre-registration required

PBX PETERBOROUGH BUSINESS EXCHANGE **TUESDAY,**
April 3rd, 2018

The Mount Community Centre

1545 Monaghan Road Peterborough **SHORELINES**

4:00pm – 6:00pm

Details: 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.

About: Today, the organization offers apartment units at both affordable and market rate rents in the completed South Wing, office space for not-for-profit organizations and local businesses, as well as space for performing arts and other community gatherings.

Cost: Free, courtesy of Shorelines Slots at Kawartha Downs

Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan **FOR FIRMS WITH 1-50 EMPLOYEES**

Insurance for small business that's anything but small

contact: Brian Bulger at 741-1400



Jef Dueck
Team Manager/Assistant Coach
PHA Tyke 7MD
Peterborough Petes Maroon

Future stars - on and off the ice

As a coach in the Peterborough Hockey Association, I'm proud that we have produced dozens of hockey players who have succeeded at the highest competitive levels.

I'm even prouder of how we have helped shape the characters of hundreds of kids who have gone on to be winners in life.

But creating an environment for young people to develop, as hockey players and citizens, would not be possible without the support of community sponsors - like Nexicom.

Like our Petes, Nexicom has long been a fixture in our community, representing all the things that make Peterborough a great place to live.

And, like us, the folks at Nexicom know that it's never too early to start grooming the stars of tomorrow - on the ice and in the community.



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