

50+ policy resolutions to be debated at provincial meeting

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

Starting today (Thursday, April 26th) the provincial chamber network of about 130 chambers of commerce and boards of trade will gather in Hamilton for the Ontario Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting (OCC AGM).

The event will feature a lunch with Canada's Ambassador to the US David McNaughton, break out discussions on a variety of topics that will help guide chambers in helping their members, and the policy resolution debate which sets the policy agenda for the network.

This year the Peterborough Chamber is putting forward three resolutions for consideration.

1. Mitigating Bill 148
2. Maximizing Growth in Built Areas
3. Unrealized Heads and Bed Levy Hurts Ontario's Economic Competitiveness

Mitigating the Impact of Bill 148

This resolution offers 10 recommendations to government to help mitigate the impacts of the Bill 148 legislation. Among the suggestions is a tax credit to help businesses cover additional costs that were required for a business to prepare for the changes including extra human resources advice, accounting and legal fees. It also asks for compliance issuances before fines with regard to the



Policy debate at 2017 Ontario Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting

170+ legislated changes in the bill, and improvements to Business Education, Scale Up and Charitable tax credits. It asks to create a bracketed small business deduction to encourage growth and that the government take a "reward the good players" approach to recognize employers who have consistently demonstrated positive employment and labour practices. Finally, it asks the government to create defined implementation timelines for legislation that has an economic impact on small business.

Maximizing Growth in Built Areas

This particular resolution is aimed at helping property owners and municipalities understand the needs and amount of unused space in urban growth areas. The Places To Grow Act identifies density and job targets, but there remains a lot of unused space in urban growth areas with older buildings. Creating a

climate to explore these spaces and understand the needs associated with them is crucial to meeting density targets.

The recommendation is to use the Mainstreet funding envelope to help fund these studies.

Unrealized Heads and Bed Levy Hurts Ontario's Economic Competitiveness

This levy applies to post-secondary, correctional institutions and hospitals and has not been adjusted in 30 years. The levy is paid in lieu of taxes by these organizations. We are asking that the per bed/head amount be increased to \$100 and then tied to the Consumer Price Index. This type of action will increase the amount received by municipalities and is more reflective of the cost of providing services to these locations.

In all, chambers will be discussing over 50 such policy papers over

the course of the weekend. Other resolutions include asking the government to return to the previous calculation of statutory holiday pay, to complete a sector by sector assessment of the new scheduling legislation, to examine and report publicly on time of use electricity pricing, to close the gap on financial literacy, to address the skills mismatch, and to improve digital services for Ontario businesses.

Delegates will also hear from the Premier, the Conservatives and the leader of the NDP; and talk about cross-border initiatives, how to work with municipal governments, and mental health in the workplace.

The OCC AGM is also a time to celebrate business and community leadership across Ontario. Flying the flag for Peterborough will be President & CEO Stuart Harrison, Board of Directors Vice Chair Ben vanVeen, and Policy Analyst Sandra Dueck.

Experience China 2018
October 12-22

merit travel
GREATER Peterborough Chamber of Commerce
More: peterboroughchamber.ca

Enchanting India 2018
November 5-14

Join our Membership Services Team
If you love Peterborough, love people, and love business, you'll love working with us!

We are hiring for our Membership Services Team, a job that requires event planning experience, sales experience, and exceptional people skills.

Learn more: peterboroughchamber.ca/blog

Peterborough Business Excellence Awards
NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!

DEADLINE IS MAY 23RD 4:30 PM

Host Sponsor: Bell Business Citizen of the Year Sponsor

Your Business + The Chamber
#StrengtheningBusiness

Learn how: peterboroughchamber.ca

Dr. Brenda Tapp, Peterborough Centre for Naturopathic Medicine, Chamber Member Since 2014

PTBO CHAMBER MEMBER

Research Grant for Fleming College
Congrats to Fleming College's Centre for Sustainable Municipalities on receiving a \$500,000 research grant.

Northend Arena Receives Funding
The provincial government will contribute \$18 million over three fiscal cycles to help build the new

Peterborough Arena & Aquatic Complex, which will replace Northcrest Arena near Trent University.

Telethon raises money for children
The Easter Seals telethon on CHEX TV raised \$506,193 to help children and young people with physical disabilities.



Featured Member Discount Program: Communicate through emarketing

Constant Contact
SAVE up to a 25% discount for Chamber members - even if you are already using Constant Contact to communicate with your customers and clients.

Call 1-855-854-8609
chamberprogram@constantcontact.com

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

#LOVE LOCALPTBO
STRENGTHENING BUSINESS

BE Catering @BECateringPTBO - Apr 19
Banana Chocolate Chip is our Muffin of the day along with our regular Raisin Bran, always scratch baked.

#PTBO #ptboeats #good #food #loveLocalPTBO

Event Calendar

THURSDAY
April 26th, 2018

Experience China Information Session
Chamber Boardroom
175 George Street N
6:00pm

Details: Learn more about the trip to China in October 2018.
Note: Pre-register with Merit Travel at (705) 743-1635.

merit travel
...for the experience

TUESDAY
May 1st, 2018

McDonnell Street Activity Centre
577 McDonnell Street
Peterborough

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.

Cost: Free, courtesy of Shorelines Slots at Kawartha Downs

THURSDAY
May 3rd, 2018

DiscoverABILITY Workshop
Chamber Boardroom
175 George Street North
11:45am - 1:30pm

Details: Join the Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce to learn how the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) applies to your business and the advantages of developing an inclusive workforce.

Cost: Free
Note: Pre-registration required

Full Events Calendar can be found at:
peterboroughchamber.ca/events

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

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.

Internet | Telephone | Security *More than you expect*