

## Business has a lot to say during this provincial election campaign

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

Election signs are starting to pop up as we hit the start of Week 2 of the provincial election campaign. The Peterborough Chamber is continuing to promote the business platform, Vote Prosperity, which we released last October in partnership with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. Vote Prosperity features 18 recommendations in four areas:

1. Strengthening Business Competitiveness
2. Fostering Job Creation
3. Building Healthy Communities
4. Improving Government Accountability

Recently, we asked our membership about some of the issues and asked them to rank five of the recommendations by importance to their business. We received 61 online responses and 34 paper responses for a total of 91 responses.

What we learned from the survey was:

- 31% of respondents identified that the need to fully understand the cost of doing business in Ontario was of great importance.
- A request for increased government accountability around budgets was supported by 22% of respondents.
- The cost of electricity continues to be a concern along with how Ontario businesses could access

STRENGTHENING BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS

**Our Recommendation:**  
Work with federal and local levels of government to establish a publicly available analysis of the cost of doing business in Ontario.

31% of respondents to a Peterborough Chamber Survey identified this recommendation as "Most Important"

VOTE PROSPERITY

- or have opportunity to purchase surplus power before it is sold to other jurisdictions.
- Rounding out the issues were:
- A call to continue to look at modernizing the apprenticeship system to ensure it is more reflective of need in all Ontario communities.
  - Better planning processes that allow communities and the province to plan for strategic growth because land use policies and development regulations are not aligned.
- Our members also identified a number of other areas that are important to their business including:
- Improving the procurement process to allow for more access to provincial procurement opportunities for small businesses in the regions.
  - Allowing for an opt-out option for WSIB, particularly in construction industry if the company can show private insurance with the appropriate amount of coverage
  - Ensuring the future viability of manufacturing, a sector that has always been a large part of the Ontario economy
  - Lowering the personal tax rate
  - Allowing tax credits for use of a tutor
  - Further reducing the amount of red tape, especially for small business
  - Developing actionable strategies around mental health and affordable housing
  - Improving broadband access and reducing cellular costs
  - Continuing to offer mitigation and/or elimination to the scheduling and on-call provisions of Bill 148
  - Increasing access to capital for small tech firms
  - Eliminating the frequent changes to the Building Code
- There is still time to get your questions in ahead of our provincial candidates debate on business issues. Submit your question through our Provincial Election 2018 webpage at [peterboroughchamber.ca](http://peterboroughchamber.ca)
- To hear answers on these issues join us for a provincial candidates debate this afternoon from 4-6pm at the Holiday Inn Peterborough Waterfront.
- [peterboroughchamber.ca/blog](http://peterboroughchamber.ca/blog)

## Event Calendar

**Tonight!**  
**THURSDAY, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Provincial Candidates Business Issues Debate**

**Holiday Inn Peterborough Waterfront**  
150 George Street N  
**4:00 - 6:00pm**

**Details:** Join us to hear from the candidates for Peterborough - Kawartha Riding. The debate will focus on issues impacting the business community. Submit any questions to [sandra@peterboroughchamber.ca](mailto:sandra@peterboroughchamber.ca)

Liberal - Jeff Leal  
PC - Dave Smith  
NDP - Sean Conway  
GRN - Gianne Broughton

**Cost:** Free to attend

**NEXT LEVEL PTBO**  
**WEDNESDAY, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**The Venue PTBO**  
286 George Street N  
**11:45am - 1:00pm**

**Speakers:**

- Cam Taylor, Outdoorsmart & Venture North
- Sana Virji & Ribat Chowdhury, Ribitt
- Lynn Teatro, Teatro

**Details:** Hear from these business leaders and then find out who they believe is next level!

**Sponsor:** The Law Studio  
**Cost:** Free with Chamber Membership  
**Note:** Pre-registration required

**PBX**  
**TUESDAY, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Peterborough Public Library**  
345 Aylmer Street N  
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

**Full Events Calendar:**  
[peterboroughchamber.ca/events](http://peterboroughchamber.ca/events)

**Experience China 2018**  
October 12-22

**merit travel**  
GREATER Peterborough Chamber of Commerce  
More: [peterboroughchamber.ca](http://peterboroughchamber.ca)

**Enchanting India 2018**  
November 5-14

## Gearing up for another Musicfest season

It is what it is and what it has been, and is still, very good.

With an attendance record-setting summer of 2017 in its rear view mirror, Peterborough Musicfest kicks off its 18-concert 32nd season on Saturday, June 30 – part one of a weekend doubleheader that will also see a Canada Day concert staged.

"We really enjoy our spring training, as we call it, but we're kind of hibernated in the winter, so it's fun to come out in the spring and share the result of all the hard work we've done," says Musicfest general manager Tracey Randall.

As has been the case since Fred Anderson debuted what was then called the Peterborough Festival of Lights in 1987, the success of the annual free summer concert series is rooted in the forging and nurturing of relationships with musicians' booking agents as well as the numerous sponsors who generously foot the bill.

"We've got to make the money in order to spend it," notes Randall, crediting marketing and sales coordinator Tashonna McDougall with "stepping up" her game, bringing some existing sponsors to a higher giving level while also attracting new supporters.

For sure, there are major challenges, notes Randall – increasing artist fees tops the list. In addition, for-profit events typically receive "first dibs" on available acts and, often, a radius clause prohibits acts from performing at Musicfest if they're booked for a for-profit event within a defined distance of Peterborough.

And then there's the goal of presenting a diverse lineup genre-wise that speaks to the musical tastes of a wide demographic. After all, you can't please everyone and often those who try fail miserably.

Yet that has been achieved. Ask any one of the 138,000 delighted live music fans who flocked to Del Cray Park last summer.

"I'm pumped to keep bringing new and old music to Del Cray Park... it's really special that we can continue to honour Fred and what he set this up to be," says Randall.

Yes, Peterborough Musicfest has been very good and still is. More of the same beckons.

For more on Musicfest and to view the 2018 concert schedule, visit [ptbomusicfest.ca](http://ptbomusicfest.ca)

**47th Annual Golf Tournament**  
Kawartha Golf & Country Club | June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018

This year's tournament is dedicated to the memory of Tony Smith. A true Chamber Champion.

All golfers qualify to win one of 10 VIA Rail \$250 Travel Vouchers

Putting Contest proceeds will go to the local MS Society

Host Sponsor: Grant Thornton | An instinct for growth

[peterboroughchamber.ca](http://peterboroughchamber.ca)

**PTBO CHAMBER MEMBER**

**Member Milestones**

- Alternatives Community Program Services have received a Trillium grant to fund the renovation of their space on Braidwood
- Fleming College students helped box up 88 birthday party boxes for the Kawartha Food Share
- 'Library Commons' will be name of new public space beside Peterborough Public Library, sponsored by LLF

**New website for Brant Basics**

Brant Basics recently launched their new shopping website. The site features a quicker and more accurate search function.

The long time family business says it's how they're committed to providing businesses with personalized service, expert advice and flexible delivery.

More: [brantbasics.com](http://brantbasics.com)

**Featured Member Discount Program: Digital Marketing Assessment**

**DIGITAL MARKETING ASSESSMENT**  
FREE Performance Assessment (valued at \$399)

Website Diagnostic / Google Rankings (SEO) / Competitive Analysis

See how your company's website performs compared to your competitors

**whatever**  
SOLUTIONS & MEDIA

CLICK TO FIND OUT MORE

Call 705-749-6325 | [www.whatevermedia.ca](http://www.whatevermedia.ca)

Chamber members, send your Member Milestones to [reception@peterboroughchamber.ca](mailto:reception@peterboroughchamber.ca) or call 705-748-9771 x0.

**#LOVE LOCALPTBO**  
STRENGTHENING BUSINESS

**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**

[www.peterboroughchamber.ca](http://www.peterboroughchamber.ca)

**Nominate Your Business**

**Nominate Another Business**

**Nominate An Individual**

**EXCELLENCEPETERBOROUGH.CA**

**FINAL DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS: WEDNESDAY, MAY 23RD AT 4:30PM**

Host Sponsor: Business Citizen Sponsor

**Bell** **nexicom**