

Smothering by regulation hurts business competitiveness

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

As a Chamber of Commerce representing close to 900 businesses we often speak of the cumulative regulatory burden businesses face every day. Not only are they working hard to stay competitive against like businesses in their sector, but they are working to keep their heads above water when it comes to the mandatory regulations imposed by all levels of government.

"Chamber members consistently tell us that regulatory burden and the layering impact of regulation from different ministries and levels of government is one of the most difficult areas to navigate as a business," said Stuart Harrison, President & CEO, Peterborough Chamber of Commerce.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce (CCC) has crunched the numbers and found "in 2015, the federal government reported that there are 131,745 federal requirements that impose an administrative burden on business."

As a result one could say that Canada's regulatory system is smothering business in Canada. A new report by the CCC, and supported by the Peterborough Chamber of Commerce, *Death by 130,000 Cuts*, improving Canada's Regulatory Competitiveness, calls on governments to modernize their regulatory frameworks and give businesses in Canada room to thrive.

The report details the cost of regulation and how it shapes a business' activities by impacting behaviour around capital investment, productivity and innovation, as well as creating a focus on paperwork and compliance tasks. A study out of the United Kingdom and referenced in the report identifies that "the relationship between regulation and growth is complex..." as it can have both negative and positive impacts.

Death by 130,000 Cuts examines why Canada is falling behind by looking at nine factors including regulatory overlap, interprovincial regulatory differences that report calls a tyranny of small variances from province to province that add up, inconsistent regulatory processes and consultations along with the role of our regulating bodies and the criteria they follow.

The report also looks at regulating in an era of accelerating technological change as not only is technology disrupting markets and sectors; it's disrupting how regulators establish and enforce rules for those markets.

In the end the call to action is that Canada has the opportunity to modernize its regulatory system and turn them into a competitive strength instead of a weakness.

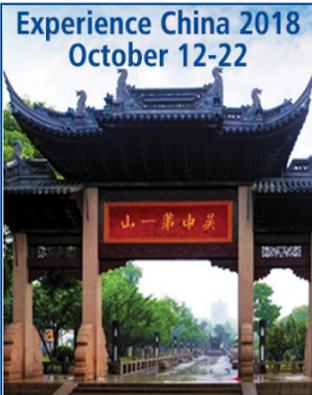
In order to do so the Canadian Chamber offers seven recommendations:

- **Recommendation One:** Establish a government-business regulatory competitiveness working group
- **Recommendation Two:** Give regulators economic growth and competitiveness mandates
- **Recommendation Three:** Increase federal leadership eliminating interprovincial trade barriers
- **Recommendation Four:** Rebuild stakeholder confidence in cost-benefit analysis
- **Recommendation Five:** Improve regulatory consultations
- **Recommendation Six:** Increase efforts to modernize individual regulatory frameworks
- **Recommendation Seven:** Increase international alignment, especially in new areas of regulation



- The recommendations provide a strategic way forward designed to ensure Canada's business competitiveness in a global economy.
- "Inconsistent and unpredictable rules and processes are making it difficult for businesses—whether large or small—to keep up and comply. This leads to our businesses being less competitive and Canada becoming a less attractive place to invest, start or grow a business," said the Hon. Perrin Beatty, President and CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.
- "Regulations are designed to keep us safe and to create a level playing field. But when they start to smother businesses, that becomes a real problem."

To read the full report: peterboroughchamber.ca/blog



A recap of the provincial election business priorities

Vote Prosperity is a platform outlining the Ontario business community's priorities.

There are four pillars on which the platform is based:

1. **Strengthening 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. **Fostering Job Creation:** A robust labour market

consisting of good jobs is essential to prosperity for all Ontarians.

3. **Building 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. **Improving Government Accountability:** Poor implementation of government



initatives can result in resource waste, political frustration and disruption for ordinary citizens.

Polls open at 9am and close at 9pm.
peterboroughchamber.ca/blog

47th Annual Golf Tournament
Kawartha Golf & Country Club | June 13th, 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

peterboroughchamber.ca



Member Milestones

- The Carousel Restaurant lead chef Jim Sheehan has retired after working at the restaurant for the past 20 years. New chef, Jeff Scott has now taken over the position
- GreenUP Ecology Park's Native Plant Garden is now open until October 21st, Thursday 10 am to 6 pm and Friday and Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm.

- The YES Shelter for Youth & Families is currently hiring support staff
- Brant Office Supply Ltd. offered their storefront window to the Canadian Mental Health Association - Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge during the month of May to promote Healthy Mind, Healthy Life Golf Tournament on June 15th
- Tangible Words Ltd. has won an Impact Award from HubSpot for their website design
- Happy 30th anniversary Dr. Hoja and the rest of the Peterborough Optometric Centre staff
- Jobs Canada is having a Job Fair on June 14 at the Holiday Inn Peterborough Waterfront from 1-3 pm

Featured Member Discount Program: Coffee Break Learning with Sofie Andreou

Online Digital Marketing Training

Members' Benefit **FREE** Access to ALL Video Tutorials

Coffee Break Learning
Find Out More Click Here

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

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STRENGTHENING BUSINESS

www.peterboroughchamber.ca

Event Calendar

TUESDAY
June 12th, 2018

The Truth About Finding Happiness for Entrepreneurs

The Carousel
116 Lansdowne Street East
Coffee's on at 7:00am
Speakers from 7:30-8:30am

Cost: Pay for your breakfast

Speaker: Michael Konapaski, Inclusive Advisory

Details: Michael's PhD is in Entrepreneurship and his research interests include the connection between happiness and entrepreneurship. Over the years, Michael has studied hundreds of entrepreneurs to find out how they build their business while simultaneously achieving happiness.

Note: Pre-registration encouraged

WEDNESDAY,
June 20th, 2018

Peterborough Sport and Wellness Centre

775 Brealey Drive

9:30am – 4:30pm

Details: The 6th Annual Seniors Showcase brings together over 100+ exhibitors that offer products and services for seniors and their families all under one roof.

Cost: Free admission and parking

Show Sponsor:



Agency Village Sponsor:



WEDNESDAY
June 27th, 2018
(Chamber & WBN Members only)

Marijuana and the Workplace

175 George Street North

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Speaker: Chris Russell, LLF Lawyers and Matthew Savino, SHRP Ltd.

Details: Our speakers will discuss the roles and responsibilities of the employer under the marijuana legislation. Which policies should be updated? What are the liabilities?

Cost: Free (Bring your lunch)

Note: Pre-registration required

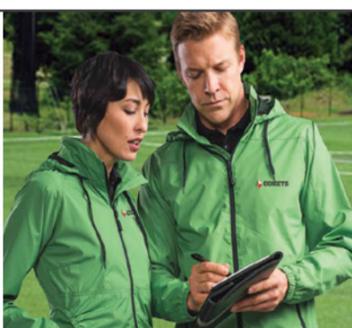
Full Events Calendar:
peterboroughchamber.ca/events

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

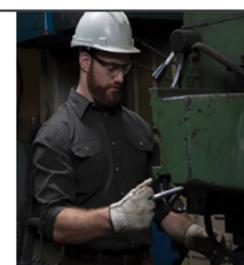


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