VOICE OF BUSINESS

GREATER Peterborough Chamber of Commerce

STRENGTHENING BUSINESS

What's going on with Bill 148?

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

We've mentioned it before and we're saying it again, business likes certainty. However, for a very long time certainty has been elusive for the business owner.

The Bill 148 legislation came into effect January 1, 2018. Before hand there was concern. Businesses had a very short time frame to institute some major changes. There was no economic analysis done by government to understand the impact of so many changes all at once. Several independent groups , including the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, issued analyses that predicted job losses of between 50 -100,000 over the next two years because of the reforms.

A survey of the Peterborough Chamber membership painted a wide array of impacts and reactions, including increased prices, decreased hours, and a lot more automation. We also heard that businesses made the changes and well, got on with business. As always there are different levels of impact. The feeling from the economic analyses and those in business is that the true impact of the changes won't be seen until one or two years after implementation.

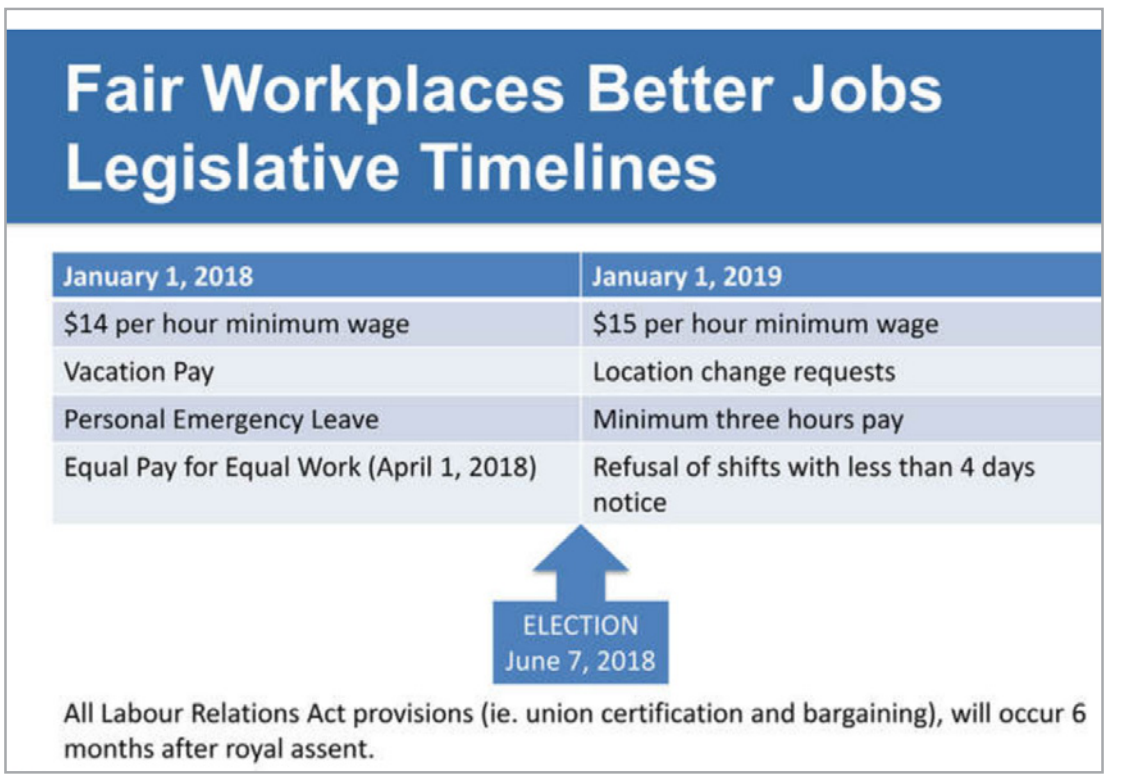
With the change in government we've been asked what will happen with this legislation. The short answer is, it will remain in place. That said, one of Premier Ford's campaign promises was to stop the second minimum wage increase, from $14 to $15, in the Bill 148 legislation. In order to do so, the legislation must be brought forward to Queen's Park and opened to make the change. In most cases, legislation is reviewed every five years or so, but now there is potentially an opportunity coming up to get in and make changes.

The Chamber's number one concern with the Bill 148 legislation was the speed at which it came into effect and the depth and breadth of impact in the business community. We constantly speak about the piling on effect or cumulative burden. Bill 148 introduced a significant amount of new rules, regulations and costs, on top of increased hydro rates, gas prices, and various federal regulations. Bill 148 was also intended to improve the economic prospects for the most vulnerable members of society, but it placed the burden almost squarely on the shoulders of the business community, as though we are an endless source of wealth. In addition to a longer implementation of Bill 148, the Chamber lobbied hard for income tax measures for the lowest income earners, and the completion and consideration of the Basic Income Guarantee study. This study, which included the City of Kawartha Lakes has now been cancelled, a missed opportunity for significant change in how we treat our most vulnerable.

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce, along with several other organizations is calling for a full repeal of Bill 148. We are asking our members to provide us with some feedback as to how they are coping with the legislative changes, and the increased costs. What are some of the mitigation measures they've implemented, and what do they anticipate will be the long term impacts? We are also curious to know if there are specific areas that need to be changed or receive further consideration should the legislation be opened up.

Survey Link:
http://bit.ly/Bill148Survey

peterboroughchamber.ca/blog



Chamber looking for feedback on Bill 148

The Peterborough Chamber of Commerce is looking for feedback on the impact of Bill 148 on the business community.

We've built a short two question survey that is looking for what has changed, if anything, in the past eight months since the legislation came into effect.

We are also asking for input to present to the provincial government should they reopen or solicit feedback on potential changes to the legislation.

Businesses, please take a moment to fill out the survey. It will help us best serve the advocacy needs of our business community.

The survey can be found here:
http://bit.ly/Bill148Survey

or on the Peterborough Chamber blog: peterboroughchamber.ca/blog

Member Milestones

- **The Trent Valley Archives** is presenting the Little Lake Cemetery Pageant 2018 on Sat., Sept 29th and Sun., Sept 30th, celebrating the lives of some of the people who are buried there.
- **We Design Group** has officially moved to their new location at 150 King Street on the second floor
- **The UK Shoppe** is celebrating their 10th anniversary
- Take Back the Night Peterborough, hosted by **Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre** is scheduled for September 20th, 5 PM to 8 PM starting in Millennium Park
- **Spotlight Home and Lifestyle Inc.** has welcomed Mike Pedlar as a partner in their firm
- **Investors Group** is now IG Wealth Management
- **Peterborough Community Savings,** a division of Alterna Savings & Credit Union LTD celebrates their 110 birthday this month
- The Peterborough Airport is hosting the 3rd annual Peterborough Aerospace Summit with the **Loomex Group** today (September 13th)

Featured Member Discount Program: Digital Marketing Assessment from Whatever Solutions & Media

Chamber members, send your Member Milestones to reception@peterboroughchamber.ca or call 705-748-9771 x 0.

www.peterboroughchamber.ca

Event Calendar

LUNCHBOX LEARNING

WEDNESDAY September 19th, 2018 (Chamber & WBN Members only)

What is Blockchain and why should I care?

Bell

Chamber Boardroom
175 George Street North

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Speaker: Anthony Evelyn, RBC Wealth Management

Details: This free series is for members interested in professional development and connecting with fellow members and includes a presentation followed by Q&A.

Cost: Free (Bring your lunch)

Note: Pre-registration required

LEADERS LUNCH SERIES

THURSDAY, September 27th, 2018

The Benefits of Strategic Planning

Personal Touch Banquet Hall

11:15am – 1:30pm

Details: Our keynote speaker is Ali Lajevardi Director of BDC Advisory Services. We'll also hear from panelists Rhonda Barnet (CEO & Co-President of Steelworks Design Inc), Jonathan Bennett (CEO of Laridae Communications) and Matt Tanguay (Co-Founder of Percheron Plastic Inc).

Register online:
peterboroughchamber.ca/events

nexicom WDB bdc

LOVE LOCAL EXPO

WEDNESDAY October 3rd, 2018

The Evinrude Centre 911 Monaghan Road

12:00pm - 7:00pm

Details: Connect. Experience. Discover your local business community.

The LoveLocalPtbo Business Expo is the premiere business showcase event in the Peterborough region, celebrating all of the amazing businesses operating in Peterborough.

Sponsor: Signarama Peterborough

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

Growing our team. Serving our community.

Gord McFarland has joined our Peterborough team, and we couldn't be happier. As a business advisor and community volunteer, Gord believes that strong relationships lead to strong results.

Looking for a team player to help you reach your business goals? Contact Gord.

Peterborough
362 Queen Street
T +1 705 740 8889
E gord.mcfarland@ca.gt.com

grantthornton.ca

Grant Thornton | An instinct for growth™

Audit | Tax | Advisory

© 2018 Grant Thornton LLP. A Canadian Member of Grant Thornton International Ltd. All rights reserved.