

Transparency needed on cap and trade costs

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

With all that is going on around the issue of electricity, a recent decision from the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) has the Peterborough Chamber and the Ontario Chamber of Commerce Network shaking their collective heads.

Currently businesses in Peterborough are dealing with price increases that are impacting competitiveness, the impact of a potential merger of PDI into Hydro One, lack of transparency around the items included in the Global Adjustment fee and now the Ontario Energy Board has decided to include cap and trade costs in the delivery charge of utilities.

This move presents a number of concerns including that it seems to be in direct conflict with the Premier's goal of being the most transparent and accountable government anywhere in Canada.

In response to this decision the Chamber Network through the Ontario Chamber of Commerce has sent a letter to the Chair of the OEB and copied Premier Wynne and Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault requesting that cap and trade costs be their own line item on energy bills for businesses and consumers.

The letter outlines four areas of explanation as to why a separate line item is required: transparency,



efficiency, sectoral applications and exemptions.

Transparency

Under this area of concern, the letter outlines the need for accurate information to be available to customers so they can make appropriate choices about their energy use including:

- understanding how month-to-month emissions costs will help emphasize the value of reducing usage
- allowing Ontario businesses to properly manage and reduce their usage of fossil fuels
- offering more information than tariff sheets on a utility's website
- creating a direct signal to customers to use less gas and invest in energy efficiency measures
- educating and influencing customer behaviour.

Efficiency

A separate charge will enable customers to confirm they have been charged the correct amount and recognize the different treatment of large emitters in relation to the to

customer-related obligations and allow for fewer incidents of customer confusion and inquiries.

Sectoral Applications

Large emitters agree the charge should be separate to allow them to ensure they have been charged the correct amount.

Exemptions

Some users of fossil fuels (farmers and First Nations) are currently tax exempt. Will this continue to be the case if the cost is rolled into other delivery charges on the purchase of gasoline, diesel, propane, or natural gas?

The letter concludes with a call for the decision for cap and trade costs to be included in delivery charges to be reversed to allow for more transparency for businesses and consumers, and to better inform customer behaviour to help achieve the government's emissions reduction objectives.

Read the full letter on our website: peterboroughchamber.ca

What you need to know

- OEB wants to include cap and trade charges in with the delivery charge
- Chamber feels this decision goes against the Premier's goal of having the most transparent government in the country
- Businesses will not have the most accurate information on which to base decisions around energy efficiency measures or understand the true impact of the cap and trade program
- Four areas of concern:
 - Transparency
 - Efficiency
 - Sectoral Application
 - Exemptions
- Call for the OEB to reverse this decision and to have cap and trade costs as a separate line item

CCC: The end of growth

This is particularly poignant for Canada where the most important issue in last year's election campaign was whether to balance the budget or spend on stimulus. We now have a \$29.4 billion-deficit, and growth has been...not very good. The Bank of Canada just slashed our growth outlook for 2016 from 1.7% to 1.3%, partly because of Alberta's wildfires, but also because business investment will fall 1% and exports will be essentially flat, rising just 0.3%.

We have three major challenges. Demography is a problem—we're getting older, and, in fact, Canada's labour force will start to shrink next year. Investment has been weak

because of global uncertainty. But the biggest disappointment has been productivity. It's the best way to grow the economy because increasing output per worker is the only way to sustainably grow our wages. And global productivity has plummeted. From 1990 to 2007, it rose by an average of 2% per year in OECD countries.

It seems odd in this age of amazing innovation that we have a productivity crisis. We all have supercomputers in our pocket that can access the entire catalog of human knowledge. But do the innovations of 2016 improve our output compared to past inventions such as computers and mass production?

So how do we break out of our low-growth trap? We have to spend on things that catalyze investment and improve our productive capacity. Canada has to become an innovation superpower to make sure that all those new technologies and jobs are created here. We have to increase investment in skills and education to pull more people into better paying jobs. Finally, infrastructure is critical but only if we invest in projects that have high-growth multipliers such as digital, energy and transport.

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Member Milestones: New era, beginnings, and buildings

New era for Nexicom

Congratulations to John and Paul Downs on their well-deserved retirement and successful sale of Nexicom. Welcome to the new owner Clayton Zekelman, an independent investor. Nexicom states that there will not be any staffing or service changes as a result of the sale.

www.nexicom.net

New building for local landscaping and maintenance company

The Gardener is a landscape, maintenance and snow removal franchise owned locally by Ryan and Nicole Quigley. They have been growing rapidly, currently offering three landscaping trucks, five

snow plow tractors and a sidewalk shovelling crew. Plus they recently purchased a commercial building at 2069 Preston Road, to house everything. The Gardener provides full service residential and commercial landscape maintenance and snow removal.

www.hirethegardener.com/peterborough

We love to hear about the milestones achieved by our Chamber members! Tell us more:

Contact: Karen August at 705.748.9771 x200 or karen@peterboroughchamber.ca

More Member Milestones can be found: peterboroughchamber.ca/member-milestones.html



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Event Calendar



TUESDAY

September 13th, 2016

Google Authority

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

Speakers: Whatever Media

Cost: Pay for your breakfast



WEDNESDAY

September 21st, 2016
(Chamber & WBN members only)

Get Up and Move!

Chamber Boardroom
175 George Street North
12:00pm – 1:00pm

Speaker: Andrew Jobes, Balance at Work

Details: This 60-minute educational session outlines the health risks of prolonged sitting, introduces the need to move throughout the day, describes the health benefits of yoga, discusses common (mis)perceptions about yoga, and introduces a few simple movements that you can do at your workstations to incorporate movement into your day.
Cost: Free (bring your own lunch)
Sponsor: Bell
Note: Pre-registration is required



WEDNESDAY

September 21st, 2016

The moment you walk through the door: creating environments of welcome

Chamber Boardroom
175 George Street North
7:00pm – 9:00pm

Speaker: Anya Gwyn, PARN
Cost: Free



TUESDAY,

October 4th, 2016

Celebrating Green Business

Camp Kawartha & The Kawartha Outdoor Education Centre
1010 Birchview Road
Douro-Dummer

4:00pm – 6:00pm
Details: Experience the camp with fun activities and networking at the mini-trade show.

Cost: Free, courtesy of Shorelines Slots at Kawartha Downs



FOR FIRMS WITH 1-50 EMPLOYEES

Insurance for small business that's anything but small

contact: Brian Bulger at 741-1400



Local Employment Planning Council
Conseil de planification de l'emploi local

How to Calculate the Unemployment Rate for Peterborough and Area?

This update is brought to you by Workforce Development Board

In order to calculate the unemployment rate, individuals need only a few pieces of information.

As of July, 2016 Peterborough CMA had the following number of people:

Population (peopled aged 15 and over)	104,600
Number of employed people	58,100
Number of unemployed people	3,600

First thing we are going to look for is the Labour Force, which is:

1) Labour Force =
Number of employed people + Number of unemployed people
 $58,100 + 3,600 = 61,700$

With this information, we can determine the Participation Rate::

2) Participation Rate = Labour Force ÷ Population
 $61,700 / 104,600 * 100 = 58.9\%$

Now to look at the Employment Rate, which is:

3) Employment Rate =
Number of employed people ÷ Population
 $58,100 ÷ 104,600 = 55.5\%$

Finally, let's look at the Unemployment Rate!

4) Unemployment Rate = Unemployed/Labour Force
 $3,600 / 61,700 = 5.8\%$

There is much more information that you might be looking for from Statistics Canada that WDB would be glad to help you with. Please feel free to contact us anytime at workforce@wdb.ca.