

Give small businesses the tools for success

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

It's Small Business Week 2016. 93% of Peterborough Chamber of Commerce members are small businesses. Small businesses, we are hearing, will be the ones to determine the success of the economy. If this is truly to be the case then there is a lot riding on the shoulders of small business and our governments need to take a long look at what's challenging these operations on a day-to-day basis.

Earlier this week, along with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) and the Kawartha Chamber of Commerce & Tourism, we released a report called *Obstacles and Opportunities for Small Business in Ontario*. The report offers recommendations to government based on the information gathered through roundtables and surveys of businesses over the past six months. Two roundtables were held in Peterborough and Lakefield and the findings sent to the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and distributed to our respective members.

The Peterborough and Kawartha Chambers of Commerce heard concerns about the price and reliability of electricity and the impact on our local business communities. Many businesses at roundtable events in June mentioned hydro has a challenging factor in their day-to-day operations. Local



Business owners participating in a roundtable in June 2016 hosted by the Kawartha and Peterborough Chambers of Commerce

businesses also expressed frustration with the increasing cost of complying with an increasing number of government regulations.

As the collective report identifies, our local businesses are not alone in identifying electricity and other input costs as the most prominent challenges facing small business, along with access to a talented workforce, and government compliance.

"In the Peterborough area, local businesses are working hard to maintain and expand their operations, however they are facing some big obstacles including infrastructure deficits and the rising cost of doing business in Ontario," said Stuart Harrison, President & CEO, Peterborough Chamber of Commerce.

The report finds that collectively, these select policies (from cap and trade to interest arbitration) demonstrate that small businesses face input pressures from all levels. From the perspective of small business owners, government seems to be taking a piecemeal approach to program and regulatory changes

with little consideration of their cumulative impact on Ontario's business climate.

"It is critical that regional governments work with the provincial and federal governments to ensure that investments and programs are targeted to reduce operational costs and to support business growth in our region," added Kris Keller, President of the Board, Kawartha Chamber of Commerce & Tourism.

In *Obstacles and Opportunities*, we learn that businesses want to know: Where does Ontario's current cost-of-doing-business measure relative to its peers and to prior years; Does government have a position on an acceptable threshold of the cost-of-doing-business?

Most businesses that we spoke with locally were encouraged to hear more about the province's Red Tape Challenge program and hope the province will use the feedback to make improvements and reduce Red Tape.

The report also highlights that small business contributes approximately 28 percent to the provincial GDP and

created 87.7 percent of the new jobs nationally from 2005 to 2012.

Out of the Small Business Too Big To Ignore consultations on which this report is based, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce urges the government to take immediate action to implement the following three recommendations in the near term:

1. Continue the scheduled Business Education Tax (BET) rate reductions
2. Develop a single access point for all government-funded workforce, training, and employment services
3. Have all three levels of government commit coordinated infrastructure dollars to connect all Ontario businesses to the 21st century global economy.

"Small businesses in Ontario are being held back by a diverse set of challenges that need to be addressed by all three levels of government," said Allan O'Dette, President and CEO of the OCC.

To read the full report: peterboroughchamber.ca/small-business-too-big-to-ignore

Event Calendar



TUESDAY October 25th, 2016

The Venue Ptbo
11:45am-1:00pm
Lunch at 12:00pm
Live Production 12:15-12:45pm
Details: Hear from three local business people about their "next level" efforts and be there as they introduce us to who is next!

Speakers:
 Andrea & Michael VanDerHerberg, The Silver Bean Cafe
 Bretton Clark, The Land Canadian Adventures
 Sofie Andreou, Sofie Andreou & Associates

Cost: Free to attend
Sponsor: The Venue Ptbo
Note: Pre-registration is required

Special Day!
WEDNESDAY
October 26th, 2016
(Chamber & WBN members only)

H2H Marketing in a Digital World
Chamber Boardroom
175 George Street North
12:00pm - 1:00pm
Speaker: Shaun Pearce, Movingmedia **Bell**

Details: H2H stands for "human to human". Shaun Pearce will bring years of experience in the digital marketing world to this workshop and enlighten guests on how to maximize impact in both H2H and Digital marketing. It is more important than ever in a digital world to bring the two methods of marketing together.

Cost: Free (bring your own lunch)
Sponsor: Bell
Note: Pre-registration is required

PBX PETERBOROUGH BUSINESS EXCHANGE
TUESDAY, November 1st, 2016

Showcasing Arts & Entertainment
Market Hall Performing Arts Centre
140 Charlotte Street
4:00pm - 6:00pm
Details: We will be showcasing our Arts businesses in a mini-trade show format and give you a taste of what's in store for the next year!
Cost: Free, courtesy of Shorelines Slots at Kawartha Downs

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

2016 BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL RECIPIENTS IN 2016

Check out the special supplement in today's paper profiling all of the amazing finalists.

Consider nominating your business in 2017

Host Sponsor **Bell** Business Citizen Sponsor **INNOVATION**

GREATER Peterborough Chamber of Commerce

www.excellencepeterborough.ca

Experience how these entrepreneurs are taking it to the next level. Discover who they think is next!

Next Level

Tuesday, October 25, 2016
 Doors open at 11:45am | Lunch at 12:00pm
 Live Production 12:15 -12:45pm
 The Venue PTBO

STRENGTHENING BUSINESS. ONE MEMBER AT A TIME.

JOIN US

Member Milestones: time to celebrate!

PTBO CHAMBER MEMBER
STRENGTHENING BUSINESS

Local not-for-profit celebrates a quarter century of Chamber membership

Thanks to everyone at Hospice Peterborough for their support of the Chamber of Commerce. Executive Director Linda Sunderland and staff were recently presented with a certificate recognizing 25 years of Chamber membership. Whether you are living with a life threatening

illness, caring for someone or grieving, Hospice Peterborough can help guide you through all the challenges, changes and difficult decisions you and your family are facing.

More at: hospicepeterborough.org

Clothing Designer announces retirement

Angela Mark is retiring and closing her retail store in Peterborough. "I am proud of the success that I've enjoyed for 30 years in a career that I love. I will be taking with me the experience and knowledge that I have gained from carving a niche in a very challenging industry," writes Mark in a recent press release. "I am

excited about being able to apply the many aspects of having a career in fashion design, business and building a brand into new opportunities. I look forward to what lies ahead."

Angela is clearing her showroom of her all of her ready-to-wear fashions, samples, and accessories over the next three days.

More at: angelamark.com/news-events/

Do you have a milestone to celebrate?

Contact: Karen August, Manager of Membership Services at 705.748.9771 x200 or karen@peterboroughchamber.ca

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BUSINESS SUMMIT 2016
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT + NETWORKING & MORE!

Breakfast Keynote: Addressing the Scale Up Challenge with Peter Lawler, BDC

Workshop Session 1:
 A. The Business Case for Going Green
 B. The Scale Up Challenge

Workshop Session 2:
 A. Best Kept Secret in Business: Telling Your Story
 B. Examining Your Digital DNA

Lunch Keynote: In Conversation with Allan Seabrooke, CAO, City of Peterborough

NEW! SPEED CONSULTING
TEN MINUTE SESSIONS
LEARN FROM EXPERTS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2016
7:00am - 2:00pm
Ashburnham Funeral Home & Reception Centre
840 Armour Road

GREATER Peterborough Chamber of Commerce

peterboroughchamber.ca/business-summit-2016