

#strengtheningbusiness as part of #TeamPtbo

By: **Stuart Harrison, President & CEO and Sandra Dueck, Policy Analyst, Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce**

It's March and as has been done for the past 127 years, the Peterborough Chamber of Commerce will host its Annual General Meeting (AGM) next week. The 128th AGM will feature Hendrik Brakel, Senior Director Economic, Financial & Tax Policy for the Canadian Chamber of Commerce (CCC) who will deliver a speech called Economic and Political Outlook 2017-2018: Canada in a Volatile World.

We also take the time to reflect on the past year of advocacy work. The policy and advocacy efforts of your Peterborough Chamber of Commerce on behalf of the business community are the core work of the organization.

With the help and support of our Chamber members, the Peterborough Chamber had four approved policy resolutions (two at the provincial level and 2 at the federal level); we published 52 issues of the Voice of Business page, executed the Small Business Too Big to Ignore campaign, and handled dozens of media enquiries on issues involving all levels of Government.

As a result of a letter writing campaign and several meetings, Peterborough City Council is continuing with their Tax Ratio Reduction Plan. The approved policy resolutions to the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) were "Identifying the cost drivers behind Electricity Prices" and "Creating a Flexible Apprenticeship

Program". We also co-sponsored two others at the provincial level. The Peterborough Chamber Policy Committee and Board of Directors also approved the submission of two policy resolutions to the CCC on "Advancing Canadian Competitiveness using short line rail" and "Restoring Canada's Innovation Competitiveness". Both of these resolutions passed at the 2016 CCC AGM. The Peterborough Chamber also co-sponsored one other resolution. Our Small Business Too Big to Ignore campaign resulted in two round table discussions with 28 businesses, 6 Voice of Business articles, three reports, and a policy resolution for the 2017 OCC AGM in Sarnia calling on the Government to expand the Red Tape challenge to include a sector for Small Business.

To connect our members with government the Peterborough Chamber hosted roundtables with MP Maryam Monsef, ON NDP Leader Andrea Horwath, WSIB, the OCC on electricity prices, the sharing economy, nuclear refurbishment, Small Business Too Big to Ignore, and VIA Rail. We participated in four OCC task forces, Queen's Park Day, Peterborough Day at Queen's Park, and the Ontario Economic Summit where the Premier answered our submitted question on hydro rates. We also recognize the importance of strengthening business through community. As such, we are members of the MP's Jobs and Economic Development Council, the Mid-Size Cities project, Sustainable Peterborough, the Local Employment Planning Council, and Board Members of Peterborough Economic Development and the Innovation Cluster.

In 2016 we established a new advocacy event. Called The Power Hour, this event brings together our four elected leaders for a one hour conversation and Q & A about business issues. We also seat one of our local municipal councillors

at each table, giving everyone a chance to engage directly. This event replaced our annual Gala, and is representative of our efforts to shift our focus to the needs of our members and the barriers that they face.

The Peterborough Chamber hosted the Shining Waters Rail initiative for 7 years. In 2016 it was recognized as the catalyst for a ground breaking proposal by VIA Rail to establish a new High Frequency Rail line between Quebec City, Montreal, Ottawa, and through Peterborough to Toronto, providing high frequency, high speed passenger rail service to four of Canada's largest Cities. Highway 407 is one year closer to its 2020 completion, which will see our 2004 OCC policy resolution come to fruition with the completion of the 407 to the Highway 115/35 intersection.

Finally, in an editorial published in our Voice of Business page we issued a public call for a more positive attitude, identifying the top ten opportunities for Peterborough and the people, companies and organizations driving them. The result was a call for a #TeamPtbo approach, which has been firmly established on local social media and constantly referred to by local community leaders.

Thank you again to our members for their support, and the Policy Committee and Board of Directors for #strengtheningbusiness with us in 2016.

For more, and to read the full Policy Report Card go to: peterboroughchamber.ca/what-we-do1.html

We'll see you at the AGM!



Experience China

Oct 11 -21, 2017

peterboroughchamber.ca

merit travel GREATER Peterborough Chamber of Commerce

Economic & Political Outlook 2017-2018: Canada in a Volatile World

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING STRENGTHENING BUSINESS

Wednesday, March 29, 2017
7:30am - 9:30am
Holiday Inn Peterborough Waterfront

GREATER Peterborough Chamber of Commerce

Event Calendar

PBX Peterborough Business Exchange TUESDAY, April 4th, 2017

PBX with Kawartha Regional Memory Clinic

Unit 1
168 Brock Street
4:00pm - 6:00pm

Details: Join us to learn more about the clinic. This event will be 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

CHAMBER AM TUESDAY April 11th, 2017

Chamber AM Meet Up: Peterborough County Open for Business

The Carousel
116 Lansdowne Street East
Coffee's on at 7:00am

Speakers from 7:30-8:30am

Speaker: Deputy Warden and Selwyn Township Mayor Mary Smith

Details: Highlighting business opportunities in the County of Peterborough

Be ready with your 30 second elevator pitch to tell others what's going on in your business.

Cost: Pay for your breakfast

LUNCHBOX LEARNING WEDNESDAY April 19th, 2017 (Chamber & WBN members only)

Learning about Random Acts of Green

Chamber Boardroom
175 George Street North

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Speakers: Jessica Correa, Random Acts of Green

Details: LunchBox Learning is a professional development session that allows you to connect with fellow members. Located in the Chamber boardroom, you are invited to bring your lunch along with you, and have the opportunity to listen to a short presentation, followed by Q&A.

Cost: Free (bring your own lunch)

Sponsor: Bell

Note: Pre-registration is required

Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance PlanSM FOR FIRMS WITH 1-50 EMPLOYEES

Insurance for small business that's anything but small

contact: Brian Bulger at 741-1400

PTBO CHAMBER MEMBER STRENGTHENING BUSINESS

Provincial Award won by Peterborough Economic Development

Peterborough Economic Development received a Provincial marketing award from the Economic Developers Council of Ontario. The award was in the advertising category for last year's food and

agriculture video series which showcased the opportunities available in the local food and agriculture sector. PED also just announced the redesign of the Starter Company program. Now called Starter Company Plus, the program will now support all entrepreneurs over 18 with companies under 5 years old. Congratulations! More: peterboroughed.ca



LETT ARCHITECTS

Lett Architects recognized for breaking down workplace barriers

The Peterborough architecture firm was recently featured in the Accessibility Ontario newsletter on the hiring of an architect with severe hearing loss.

The article refers to Lett Architects as a company that "demonstrates that this firm doesn't let a disability become a barrier to getting the job done."

More: lett.ca

#LOVE LOCALPTBO STRENGTHENING BUSINESS

www.peterboroughchamber.ca

We like playing ping-pong... but not with customer service reps

As the mother of two very active girls, my life can get crazy busy. Add a full-time job and part-time graduate studies and I don't have a minute to waste during my day.

So, if I have an issue with my Internet service, I can't afford to spend time on the phone being ping-ponged from one customer service rep to another. That's why I love dealing with Nexicom. Within moments of calling, I can speak to someone who will answer all of my questions and solve my problems. **No waiting. No ping-ponging.**

When I speak to a customer service rep at Nexicom, I'm treated more like a neighbour than a number. **And I didn't expect that.**

Tammy, Abbey, Cassie

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More than you expect

