

Small Business proving to be Too Big To Ignore

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

The provincial government has released an eight point plan to help make the lives of small businesses easier. The measures, which are scheduled to be introduced in the fall, can be directly linked to the advocacy work of your Peterborough Chamber of Commerce through the Small Business Too Big To Ignore campaign and the policy resolution process through the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. We thank our members for their participation during this campaign through a survey and roundtable events.

"The cost of compliance and issues around procurement surfaced as larger issues for small business during our roundtable discussions in 2016 and have been a part of our advocacy efforts," says Jim Hill, Chair of the Board of Directors, Peterborough Chamber of Commerce. "To see the government recognize these underlying, day-to-day issues is encouraging."

These initiatives do represent a positive change and we are very encouraged by today's (Friday, May 19, 2017) announcement on burden reduction. Cutting red tape for business has been a key component of our advocacy work and we are pleased to see government make meaningful change to reduce the regulatory burden on small business.

The one-window service concept will help save businesses time and money. The small business procurement policy is also very encouraging, and we ask the government to consider how they can expand this opportunity for small businesses across the province.

We are also pleased to see Ontario adopt the \$1 in \$1.25 out provision,

which will apply to new administrative costs. This is a best practice internationally and will keep the regulatory burden on business in check. We would certainly encourage this government to consider how they can bring costs down for business more broadly, outside of administrative fees.

But to keep Ontario competitive, we need to ensure that any impending changes to the Labour Relations Act and Employment Standards Act are evidence based and fully costed.

More information on the proposed changes around labour laws and employment standards is expected next week.

Proposed measures for small business include:

- 1. Reducing regulatory costs:** Requiring all ministries to offset every dollar of new administrative costs to business, by removing \$1.25 of old and unnecessary costs.
- 2. Streamlining compliance for small business:** Ensuring that undue burdens aren't placed on small businesses when new or amended regulations are introduced, while maintaining robust environmental, health and safety requirements and other public interest protections.
- 3. International or national standards alignment:** Increasing harmonization with

other jurisdictions and adopting international or national standards, where appropriate, when developing or reviewing regulations.

4. Rewarding good actors: Recognizing businesses that have a good compliance record and lowering their costs by reducing the requirements, such as the number of inspections, without compromising the environment, health and safety, and other protections.

5. Electronic transmission guarantee: Providing businesses the option to electronically submit any required documentation to the Government of Ontario instead of more costly paper submissions.

6. Government procurement: Introducing a preferred procurement policy for small businesses that would help

provide better access to government contracts.

7. One-window service: Developing a new program that would help small businesses access support, information, resources by phone, online and in person.

8. Reducing fees and other costs: Reviewing licence and registration fees paid with a goal of providing relief to small- and medium-sized businesses.

"Small businesses are critical for vibrant main streets across Ontario. These business owners contribute by creating jobs and strengthening local economies. Supporting these business owners by streamlining their dealings with the province and providing new opportunities for growth will help Ontario prosper."
- Peterborough MPP and Minister Responsible for Small Business Jeff Leal



CCC: Fast and Furious - Negotiating NAFTA

The U.S. Trade Representative just sent the official notification to Congress that NAFTA negotiations will begin in 90 days. The Canadian government must now negotiate and resolve all the hot button issues with our American and Mexican friends—in the midst of a highly charged political environment. How will it play out?

All three governments want NAFTA 2.0 wrapped up ASAP. Canada wants to end the uncertainty that is hurting investment, and for our partners, it is even more urgent.

Mexico's presidential election is set for July 2018 and will be in full election season by the early spring.

Similarly, U.S. mid-term elections will be held on November 6, 2018, and Republicans need to show progress on trade.

Is it even possible to renegotiate NAFTA before the deadlines? The original Canada-U.S. FTA took 18 months (May 1986 to Oct 4 1987), and our governments at the time were the closest of friends.

So it's possible but very unlikely because of the politics. We often hear from Americans that Canada is not the main target of U.S. trade ire. Canada just needs to give the Trump administration a PR win, which it defines as a big give on supply management and softwood lumber, then it can have whatever it wants

- regulatory cooperation, movement of people, maybe even an exemption from Buy American.

And even if it wasn't politically poisonous, why should we make concessions for another country's domestic politics?

There may be another way. The USTR referred to NAFTA modernization as opposed to renegotiation. In the past, NAFTA has been amended extensively without going back to Congress. We could add a chapter on e-commerce, fix the rules of origin and sign a bunch of side letters that could give the Americans the win they need.

Author: Hendrik Brakel, Canadian Chamber of Commerce

Experience China

Oct 11 -21, 2017

peterboroughchamber.ca

merit travel 

2017 Golf Tournament

Kawartha Golf and Country Club Registration Is Now Open

Sponsors: TransCanada, CAPP, Peterborough Chamber of Commerce

PTBO CHAMBER MEMBER

STRENGTHENING BUSINESS

Local sign shop receives national recognition

Congratulations!

Morgan Smith and his team at Signarama Peterborough are very proud to be recognized by the Sign Association of Canada. Signarama Peterborough was named Member of the Month.

This is quite a recognition for

Signarama Peterborough as the Sign Association of Canada represents the high standards and professionalism in the industry and are a critical partner to decision makers in developing sign regulations, standards, bylaws and legislation.

It is the commitment to excellence, service, and an acute understanding of the concept and need for signage and corporate advertising that continues Signarama Peterborough's growth. "We are continually training, growing as business partners, and evolving to meet the demands of the consumer, and the industry."

More: signaramaptbo.com

Member Plaques available to Chamber members

A fantastic #PTBOCanada

personality and one of our members, Franz of Franz's Butcher Shop & Catering! Supporting the Chamber since 2001!

Find Franz's: franzs.com



Chamber Members, get your plaque today!

reception@peterboroughchamber.ca or 705.748.9771x0

#LOVE LOCALPTBO

STRENGTHENING BUSINESS

Living Well HME @LivingWellHME

CEO of @ptbochamber Stu Harrison getting his blood pressure checked for #WHD2017 Know your number! @LivingWellHME

RETWEETS 3 LIKES 2

12:23 PM - 17 May 2017

www.peterboroughchamber.ca

Event Calendar

NEXT LEVEL PTBO

TUESDAY May 30th, 2017

The Venue PTBO
286 George Street North

11:45am – 1:00pm



Speakers:
Dr. Brenda Tapp, Peterborough Centre of Naturopathic Medicine

Jessica Correa, Random Acts of Green

Jason Chessar, J's Magic

Details: These Next Level business people will talk about their entrepreneurial story and how they're taking it to the next level. They will then introduce us to who they think is next!

Cost: Free for Chamber members and those considering Chamber membership

PBX PETERBOROUGH BUSINESS EXCHANGE

TUESDAY June 6th, 2017

PBX @ Burnham Mansion Veterinary Clinic

2235 Keene Rd



4:00pm – 6:00pm

Details: Join us to learn more about this unique clinic in a historic mansion. PBX is 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

GOLF TOURNAMENT

WEDNESDAY, June 7th, 2017

Kawartha Golf & Country Club
777 Clonsilla Avenue

11:00am – 9:00pm

Details: Join us for the 46th Annual Golf Tournament. Enjoy a day on the course (which is considered one of Canada's Top 100 courses), hole-in-one opportunities, and networking with Peterborough's business leaders



Register:
peterboroughchamber.ca/golf-tournament-2017.html

FOR FIRMS WITH 1-50 EMPLOYEES

Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan®

Insurance for small business that's anything but small

contact: Brian Bulger at 741-1400

An ideal relationship

Nexicom has been one of the main sponsors of 4th Line Theatre from the beginning and our relationship has always been something special.

Like us, they are an independent enterprise that started small and has grown over the years. But more than that, they are mentors who take a personal interest in our activities and inspire us to succeed.

They have never wavered in their enthusiasm for what we do and that's a level of support that I did not expect.

Rob Winslow, Founder & Creative Director, 4th Line Theatre

Internet | Telephone | Security *More than you expect*