

## Small business a focus of Ptbo policy resolutions

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

This weekend Chamber of Commerce delegates from across Canada will be gathering to debate a series of policy resolutions. The resolutions, if passed, will set the policy agenda for the coming year for the Canadian Chamber of Commerce (CCC).

The Peterborough Chamber of Commerce has submitted two resolutions for consideration and is a co-sponsor on two others. One of the threads tying each together is a focus on small business.

In Assisting Small Business with Minimizing the Risk and Recovery from Cybercrime, we are asking the government to "allow SMEs to write off 100% of their business investments in cybersecurity-related software, equipment and other costs (support services and outsourcing costs) in the year those investments are made."

The rationale behind the resolution is to encourage more small businesses to invest in this area of their business and to help address financial challenges that may keep SMEs away from cybersecurity measures. According to StaySafeOnline.org, 71% of data breaches happen to small businesses, nearly half of all small businesses have been the victim of a cyber attack, and that the dollar value of attacks is also on the rise (CCC's Cyber Security in Canada).

The second policy resolution is titled "Driving Innovation in Canada".



This policy resolution turns the spotlight on intellectual property with four recommendations:

1. Implement for 2018-2019 an "innovation box" approach to encourage more business investment in innovation processes in Canada
2. Consult with senior business leaders/technologists to define what intellectual property would qualify e.g. patents, copyright, industrial design
3. Ensure that any such regime adopted in Canada delivers the clarity and simplicity that encourages participation in innovation from both SMEs and large companies
4. Develop a Canada-wide "My First Patent" program using the Quebec model as a guideline

These recommendations are designed to help encourage new listing of intellectual property in Canada in the hopes that more innovation started in Canada will stay Canada.

We thank our members and co-sponsoring Chambers for their feedback and support of these resolutions.

One of the resolutions on which the Peterborough Chamber is a co-sponsor asks the federal government to "reevaluate the existing business categories identified by number of employees to determine if the current definition of small business is accurately reflected by 100 employees or less."

The resolution, put forward by the Trent Hills Chamber of Commerce, also identifies that businesses with

19 employees or less account for 86.2% of employer businesses and according to the Key Small Business Statistics Report, June 2016, "... the contribution to net employment change between 2005 and 2015 (1.2 million jobs) was 87.7% attributable to small business."

The second resolution on which we are a co-sponsor asks for a concierge service geared toward helping businesses with regulation and compliance. The recommendations stress the need for this type of service to span the varying levels of government and for swift implementation and integration into the Canada Business Network.

Delegates will debate these and 70 other resolutions in Fredericton, NB this weekend as part of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce AGM.

## CCC: Business groups unite, call on Ottawa to drop federal tax changes

35 organizations from across the country have come together to form the Coalition for Small Business Tax Fairness - a unified voice to oppose the federal government's tax proposals that would dramatically change the way incorporated small businesses are taxed in Canada.

"These proposals, while intended to target the wealthy, will hurt middle-class business owners from every sector of the economy. These are shopowners, farmers, doctors, financial planners, homebuilders and trades in all sectors—the entrepreneurial families who are the backbone of the economy and responsible for the majority of the job creation in Canada," said Dan Kelly, President of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) and member of the Coalition. "Our coming together highlights the urgency of combatting these

proposals which, if legislated, would signify the biggest changes to the business tax system in decades."

"In 10 years at the Canadian Chamber, I've never seen an issue that has generated greater concern among our members. To make matters worse, allotting only 75 days for comment in the midst of the summer holidays is not a consultation, it's a stealth attack on farmers and family businesses. The vast majority of our network's more than 200,000 members across Canada are SMEs. They will be contacting their MPs to say that these proposals must be scrapped and replaced with measures that support Canada's entrepreneurs," added Perrin Beatty, President and CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

If implemented, the proposals will restrict small business owners from



sharing income with family members; limit certain forms of saving in the business, making the firm more vulnerable in bad economic times and less able to innovate and grow; and change capital gains rules which could make it more difficult for business owners to transfer their business to the next generation.

Read the letter to Finance Minister Bill Morneau and check out the Peterborough Chamber advocacy page on the proposed changes. peterboroughchamber.ca

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ONE MEMBER AT A TIME.

## Event Calendar



WEDNESDAY September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017

The Morrow Building Next to the Memorial Centre  
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



TUESDAY, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

PBX @ Towns & Leahy Mercantile & Deli

297 County Rd 8, Indian River



4:00pm – 6:00pm

**Details:** Join us to learn more about this business, "your local merchants of quality dry goods and food, regional produce, and in-house roasted meats from Leahy Stock Farm. Fresh deli sandwiches."

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



TUESDAY, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Chamber AM: Meet PKED

The Carousel 116 Lansdowne Street East

Coffee's on at 7:00am

Speakers from 7:30-8:30am

**Speaker:** Peterborough & The Kawarthas Economic Development

**Details:** Learn about our local economic development agency and the work they are doing to help Peterborough thrive.

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

**Cost:** Pay for your breakfast

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

PTBO CHAMBER MEMBER

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**New Season and New Branding for Cogeco**

Cogeco is pleased to announce the launch of the new season of local television on its community channel in Peterborough and Lindsay.

Johanne Hinse, Vice President of Consumer Sales and Community Relations, stated "our local channels are an important part of what Cogeco puts back into

YourTV

truly local

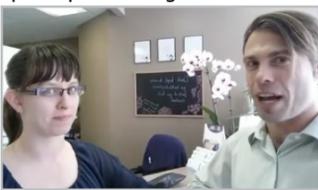
the communities we serve. We value these connections and we are proud of our teams who care deeply about local programming."

Manager of Programming and Community Relations for Peterborough and Lindsay, David Feeley described the season ahead: "we have taken a great deal of time in developing our programming over the past number of years and through the dedication and hard work of our production staff and amazing volunteers we commit to continuing this for another great season."

### 360 Wellness Clinic sees huge success with ChamberLIVE

Seana's ChamberLIVE set new records in shares and views in only 3 days. This speaks to the community that supports her business and her #LoveLocalPtbo commitment to the community! Connect with Seana Foster and the team here: [www.360wellnessclinic.ca](http://www.360wellnessclinic.ca)

If you are interested in ChamberLIVE contact Member Relations Lead Paul Teleki: [paul@peterboroughchamber.ca](mailto:paul@peterboroughchamber.ca)



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www.peterboroughchamber.ca

The Region's Largest Business Trade Show

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SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

12pm - 7pm • Morrow Building

[peterboroughchamber.ca](http://peterboroughchamber.ca)

SEE YOU AT THE SHOW!

Show Sponsor