



Policy resolutions are developed by local chambers such as Peterborough and used by the OCC and CCC to advocate for business at the provincial and federal government levels.

By being a Peterborough Chamber member you are automatically a member of the Ontario and Canadian Chambers of Commerce.

#### Ontario Chamber of Commerce

Our mission is to support economic growth in Ontario by defending business priorities at Queen's Park on behalf of our network's diverse 60,000 members, including local chambers.

#### Canadian Chamber of Commerce

With a network of over 450 chambers of commerce and boards of trade, representing 200,000 businesses of all sizes in all sectors of the economy and in all regions, we advocate for public policies that will foster a strong, competitive economic environment that benefits businesses, communities and families across Canada.

## Significant Issues in 2018

- **Bush County Signs** – In response to a Peterborough County Council examination of their sign by-law, the Chamber wrote a letter of support for continuing on with this type of signage.
- **Bill 47** – This was a re-tooling of the Bill 148 legislation by the current provincial government. The Chamber surveyed its members and submitted a letter to the government detailing the thoughts of our members.
  - Changes by the government include:
    - The provincial government has adjusted the apprenticeship ratio for all skilled trades to 1 journey person:1 apprentice.
    - Statutory Holiday Pay was returned to the original calculation before Bill 148 was introduced by the Liberal government. This was a direct result of businesses indicating the impact of the new calculation on their business.
    - Minimum wage will be held at \$14.00/hour until 2020 and then tied to an economic indicator such as the Consumer Price Index.
    - Unpaid Personal Emergency Leave days were adjusted to offer eight instead of ten and given allocations of three for illness, three for family responsibility, and two for bereavement.
  - Items unchanged by the government include:
    - Extended Parental Leave, Domestic Violence and Family Emergency Leaves
- **Rail** - The Chamber continues to speak to the federal government, our MP, local stakeholders and VIA Rail with regard to the High Frequency Rail proposal.
- The Peterborough Chamber has participated in Ontario Chamber of Commerce-led roundtables on small business access, sustainable innovation and have hosted our own sessions with our MP and MPPs on various issues throughout the year.

## Policy Achievements

- The Peterborough Chamber Business Platform for the municipal election received and continues to receive recognition from our elected officials.
- We continued to push the government to commit to reducing red tape and regulation that is bogging business down.

### Policy Resolution Success in 2018:

- *Mitigating the Impact of Bill 148* (Approved, OCC AGM 2018)
- *Maximizing Growth in Built Areas* (Approved, OCC AGM 2018)
- *Unrealized Heads and Beds Levy Hurts Ontario's Competitiveness* (Approved OCC, AGM 2018)
- *Bridging the Digital Tax Divide to Ensure a Fair and Equitable Fiscal Environment for All Businesses* (Approved, CCC Board Executive 2018)

## Highlights

- Peterborough Chamber of Commerce Policy Analyst Sandra Dueck was the co-chair of the Ontario Caucus for the 2018 Canadian Chamber of Commerce AGM & is a co-chair of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce Policy & Advocacy Committee.
- The Peterborough Chamber of Commerce participated on numerous local committees including an MP taskforce on transportation and the City of Peterborough's Official Plan review process.