

Entire Cabinet Has a Role in Making Ontario Open For Business

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

With the legislative session resuming this week, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) and Peterborough Chamber wrote to each provincial Cabinet minister, outlining a blueprint to execute over the next four years that will help make Ontario open for business. The OCC's blueprint includes both policy asks where immediate action is required to support business and foundational recommendations for long-term prosperity.

A key tool to making this province competitive is reducing red tape. The Peterborough Chamber and the OCC believes Premier Ford's step to create a separate Deputy Minister for Red Tape and Regulatory Burden Reduction is an excellent start in lowering the administrative burden felt by Ontario businesses.

"We are providing all Ministers with a blueprint for steps that can be taken to ensure we are growing Ontario's economy and building shared prosperity for all," said Stuart Harrison, President & CEO, Peterborough Chamber of Commerce. "These suggestions are grassroots ideas endorsed by the Chamber network across Ontario. Each ministry has a fundamental role to play in making Ontario open for business and we look forward to working with Premier Ford as well as his cabinet in achieving the policy commitments that support businesses across the province."



The themes that emerged in the OCC and Peterborough Chamber blueprint for making Ontario open for business include:

- **Fiscal balance:** fundamental to economic growth is ensuring that the Government of Ontario's own fiscal house is in order.
- **Business competitiveness:** the most powerful tool in making this province competitive is reducing red tape; we ask that the government prioritize lowering the administrative burden on business and ensure that regulation is streamlined and effective.

- **Investment growth:** investing in Ontario through strategic spending is essential to fostering job creation and building healthy and productive communities across the province.
- **Government accountability:** Poor implementation of government initiatives in the past has led to resource waste, mismanagement, and disruption for both businesses and residents.

"To ensure Ontario's economy has a strong foundation, business and government must work together to support evidence-based policies. As Ontario's business advocate, the

Peterborough Chamber is committed to working with the Ontario government to ensure the public policies introduced contribute to a competitive business environment as well as the economic and social well-being of our province," added Harrison.

The Peterborough Chamber has written a number of provincial policy resolutions on issues such as apprenticeship, electricity prices, and red tape reduction.

Learn more about our policy work on behalf of members on our website:

peterboroughchamber.ca/policy-resolutions.html

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CHAMBER TIP

Reason #3 to Belong: As a member of the Chamber, you have access to programs designed to save your business time and money.

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Investing in a Mentally Healthy Workplace is Good Business

One in five Canadians will experience a mental health problem or illness every year. That is approximately 7 million of us. However, despite how common mental illness continues to be met with widespread stigma. Workplaces can play an essential part in maintaining positive mental health. On a positive note, they can give people the opportunity to feel productive and contributing to a greater good. However, on the opposite spectrum, it can be a stressful environment that contributes to the rise of mental health problems and illnesses

Mental illness is the public policy challenge of the 21st century. Each week in Canada, 500,000 employees are absent from work, and mental health claims are becoming both the largest and fastest-growing category of disability costs. The World Economic

Forum estimated mental disorders as the largest cost driver at \$2.56 trillion in global costs in 2010, with projected costs of \$6 trillion by 2030.

The costs for mental disorders are greater than the costs of diabetes, respiratory disorders, and cancer combined.

A positive work environment is everyone's responsibility – from the individual employees to the organization as a whole. They both have a responsibility to shift the culture to a mentally healthy workplace. It requires strategic planning and meaningful action and leadership. The only right way to start a change is to simply start.

There are solutions.

Spearheaded by the Mental Health Commission of Canada, the National Standard for Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace, otherwise known as the Standard,

is a framework for organizations to lay the foundation in support of providing a mentally healthy and safe environment for workers.

It provides a guidance on how to promote psychological health and prevent psychological harm due to workplace factors. It includes tools and resources that are applicable to any organization regardless of size or sector that is located in Canada. The Standard is the first of its kind and has garnered interest internationally.

More: chamber.ca



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Member Milestones

- Grant Drew of **Grant Drew Designer Stone Inc.** has sold the business.
- Congratulations to Bill and Diane Wilks. They are the new owners of **Grant Drew Designer Stone Inc.**
- **Shorelines Slots @ Kawartha Downs** raised over \$16,000 for their signature charity **Five Counties Children's Centre**.

- **Peterborough Humane Society** is looking for a Campaign Manager to manage and execute its capital campaign and elements of its annual giving program.

- **Farm Life** is looking to fill two positions. Connect with them if you have an interest in agriculture and finance.

- Congrats to **Imprinted Apparel** on receiving your new equipment! The purchase was in collaboration with **Community Futures Peterborough**.

- Happy 2nd Anniversary to **Revive Hair Lounge**.

- A new exhibit called **Signs of Life** is now open at the **Art Gallery of Peterborough**.

- Congratulations **Kavtek** on the launch of your new app for home remodeling.

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