



Strengthening

VOICE OF BUSINESS



Strengthening your Business

- credibility & reputation
- promote your business
- business information
- protection and savings

@ptbochamber
peterboroughchamber.ca



POLICY REPORT CARD 2017

GREATER Peterborough Chamber of Commerce
STRENGTHENING BUSINESS

YOUR ADVOCATE IN BUSINESS

YOUR CONCERNS ARE OUR CONCERNS.
THEY FORM THE BASIS FOR OUR LOBBYING
EFFORTS AT EVERY LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT.

"2017 presented the need to amplify the voice of the business community in response to public policy changes by several levels of government. In doing so and by allowing the Chamber to communicate their story, the Peterborough business community showed strength and resilience. #StrengtheningBusiness"

Sandra Dueck, Policy Analyst
Peterborough Chamber of Commerce

#PROTECTGROWTH

RETHINK THE
TAX CHANGES

VISION

Strengthening business

credibility & reputation

promote your business

MISSION STATEMENT

We are recognized as the leading organization providing business advocacy, networking and education for our members and the community at large.

We act as a catalyst to enhance business growth and opportunity, innovation, partnerships, and a diverse business community.

TOP 5 REASONS TO BELONG

1

STRENGTHENING YOUR BUSINESS

Belonging to the Chamber business community means you are part of #TeamPtbo. Our many services, the Code of Conduct and the reputation of the Chamber as an effective voice for business all serve to strengthen your business. #strengtheningbusiness

2

PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS

Use the Chamber's website and social media platforms, trade shows, events, and our network of 850+ members to grow your business. We can connect you to customers and colleagues in Peterborough, Ontario, and Canada.

3

SAVING YOU MONEY & PROTECTING YOUR BUSINESS

As a member of the Chamber, you have access to programs designed to save your business time and money. Ask about our employee health benefit plans, credit and debit processing services, gasoline, email marketing and member-only access to over 60 social media training videos.

4

LOBBYING & ADVOCATING FOR YOUR BUSINESS

We lobby for good government at all levels - municipal, provincial, and federal. That means we are constantly speaking with and making suggestions to government to ensure the business voice is heard and considered. We also keep you informed of proposed regulations or legislative changes that can impact your business.

5

INFORMING YOUR BUSINESS

As a member of the Chamber, we can offer you access to workshops and training seminars on the latest business trends so you and your employees can learn from expert speakers and enhance your skill sets.

POLICY PROCESS

Each year the Peterborough Chamber is actively involved in lobbying all levels of government on behalf of its members. Recommendations are researched, written, vetted, and presented at multiple levels.

DECEMBER

- Present Peterborough Chamber Policy Committee with resolution ideas

JANUARY

- Present preliminary policy resolutions to Peterborough Chamber Policy Committee
- Policy Committee reviews resolutions and makes motion to Board of Directors
- Board of Directors makes decision on motion

FEBRUARY

- Policy resolutions approved by Peterborough Chamber submitted to Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC)

MARCH

- OCC Policy Committee reviews resolutions
- Presentation to OCC Policy Committee (if required)
- Canadian Chamber of Commerce (CCC) Policy Resolution Review Teleconference Call

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER

- Start developing policy resolution ideas for coming year

SEPTEMBER

- CCC policy resolutions presented and voted on at AGM
- Approved policy resolutions are the advocacy agenda for CCC

JULY - AUGUST

- Ontario Caucus Advisory Council (ON Chambers of Commerce & Boards of Trade) meets weekly to review all proposed policy resolutions
- CCC releases book of proposed policy resolutions

JUNE

- Policy resolutions approved by Peterborough Chamber submitted to CCC for review
- Presentation to CCC Policy Committees (if required)

MAY

- OCC policy resolutions presented and voted on at AGM
- Approved policy resolutions are the advocacy agenda for OCC
- Peterborough Policy Committee reviews potential policy resolutions for CCC and makes motion to the Board of Directors
- Board of Directors makes decision on motion



VOICE OF
BUSINESS

STRENGTHENING
BUSINESS

POLICY WINS & RESOLUTIONS

POLICY WINS

Municipal

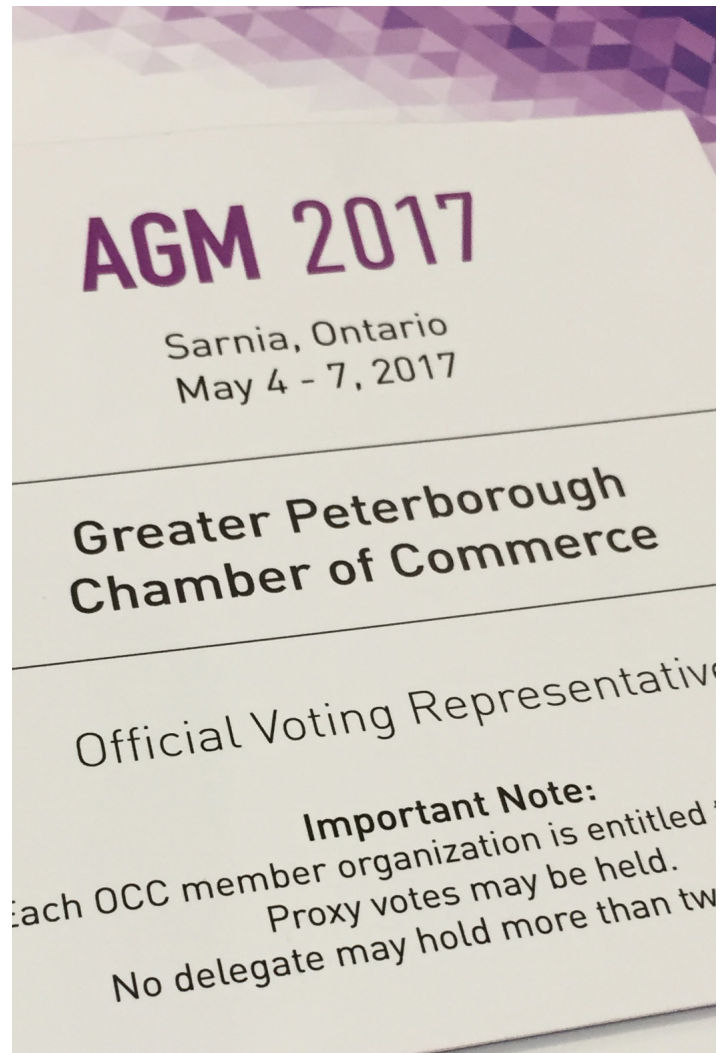
- Tax Ratio Reduction Program in municipal budget for 2018
- Vacancy Rebate funds applied to Tax Ratio Reduction Program - Commercial

Provincial

- Small Business Tax Rate from 4.5% to 3.5%
- Small Business Access website
- Red Tape Challenge continued through 2017. This program was suggested by Ontario Chamber of Commerce in *Emerging Stronger 2015*.
- Rebate program for Craft Distillers
- Modernizing Apprenticeships
 - Consortiums now allowed in the province

Federal

- #ProtectGrowth campaign resulted in adjustments to proposed changes for private corporations



RESOLUTIONS TO ONTARIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Presented and Approved May 2017

Authored:

1. In the Spirit of Business
2. Addressing the Challenges of Ontario's Largest Economic Sector: Small Business

Co-Sponsored:

1. Making the Ontario Energy Board Hearing Process More Accessible

RESOLUTIONS TO CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Presented and Approved September 2017

Authored:

1. Assisting Small Business with Minimizing the Risk of Cybercrime
2. Driving Innovation in Canada

Co-Sponsored:

1. Addressing the Challenges of Ontario's Largest Economic Sector: Small Business
2. Re-evaluate the Definition of Small Business

BILL 148 ADVOCACY

CHANGING FRAMEWORK

On June 1, 2017, the provincial government introduced legislation called the “Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act”. The legislation was the result of a two-year examination called the “Changing Workplaces Review”. The review was spear-headed by C. Michael Mitchell and John C. Murray and when completed offered 173 recommendations to government.

Proposed changes to the Employment Standards Act (ESA) and the Labour Relations Act (LRA) included:

1. Vacation Pay
2. Personal Emergency Leave
3. Equal Pay for Equal Work
4. Minimum three hours pay
5. Scheduling
6. Location requests
7. Refusal of shifts
8. New rules around union certification and bargaining

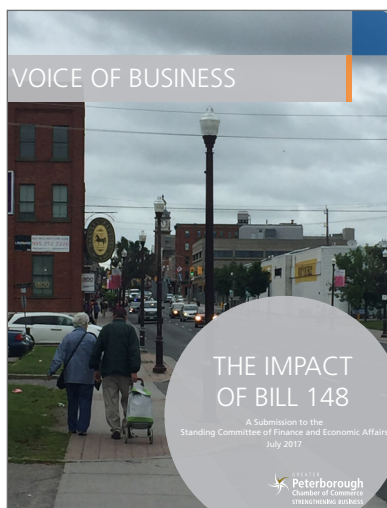
*It was also announced that minimum wage would increase to \$14/hr on January 1, 2018 and to \$15/hr on January 1, 2019. The issue of minimum wage was not part of the mandate for the Changing Workplaces Review.

The legislation passed third and final reading on Wednesday, November 22, 2017.

The business community was extremely concerned about the impact of the legislation as the changes were not only substantial, but great in number with a short implementation time.

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

- Letter to Minister Jeff Leal - May 2017
- Small Business Roundtable - June 2017
 - First roundtable in the province with Minister Responsible for Small Business Jeff Leal.
 - 24 business owners echoed their concerns that the legislation was asking for change that was too much; too fast.
- Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
 - Two rounds of public consultation. Submitted request to speak.
 - Submitted two reports to the Standing Committee:
 - July 2017
 - November 2017
 - Between the two reports 50 comments were presented from a variety of businesses in a variety of sectors.
- Online Survey - September 2017
- Roundtable in Toronto with Minister Jeff Leal - October 2017
- Government Affairs Meeting - October 2017
- Workshop at Business Summit - November 2017
- Attended Roundtable with Minister Leal in Peterborough - December 2017



RECOMMENDATIONS

In both reports the following six recommendations were made to government:

- Phase-in the move to \$14.00 minimum wage over a five-year period
- Consider keeping the student minimum wage lower than the regular minimum wage
- Provide sector specific relief (tourism, agriculture, and weather dependent businesses) on scheduling and the 48-hour rule
- Complete an economic analysis on the desired changes related to Bill 148
- Reconsider the hiring of 175 inspectors
- Consider other ways, e.g. income tax measures, to improve outcomes for low wage earners
- Complete the pilot projects around Basic Income Guarantee and subject any recommendations being considered for implementation to an economic analysis

✓ The government has made these changes.

A policy resolution asking for mitigating measures around Bill 148 was submitted to the Ontario Chamber of Commerce for consideration at 2018 AGM in Hamilton.

WHAT'S NEXT

The Peterborough Chamber of Commerce will continue to update its members on its advocacy efforts and changes around the Bill 148 legislation.

Bookmark:

peterboroughchamber.ca/advocacy-bill-148

"It will cost our business thousands more by this time next year and most of our staff make more than \$15/hour. You can only try to do more with less for so long."

**Survey Response
September 2017**



Advocacy: Bill 148



Home | Advocacy | Advocacy: Bill 148

What you need to know

Quicklinks

[What's Changing?](#)

[Resources For Employers](#)

[Reports](#)

[Articles on Bill 148](#)

INFRASTRUCTURE

In 2017 infrastructure continued to draw attention with federal and provincial funding on the table. For business, infrastructure is the backbone for getting products to market, whether it's down the street, across the province or around the world.

PLANES, TRAINS, AND AUTOMOBILES

- Peterborough Chamber was part of a Peterborough Coalition that travelled to the South Simcoe Airport for the release of the report *Flying Together: The Southern Ontario Airport Network*.
- Another 9 kilometre section of the 407 opened - December 2017
 - **Minister Jeff Leal recognized the advocacy work of the Peterborough Chamber**
- VIA Rail Passenger Service Proposal & Peterborough Chamber of Commerce:
 - Led second letter of support campaign
 - Resulted in 30+ municipalities, chambers of commerce, boards of trade and community boards passing resolutions in favour of the project
 - Provincial/Federal Freight Analysis project announced in December 2017

BROADBAND

- Continued discussion at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting - September 2017
- Broadband infrastructure was part of the Peterborough Chamber's pre-budget letter to the Federal government ahead of the 2017 budget
- Approximately \$580 million was earmarked for broadband work in 2017

BUILT INFRASTRUCTURE

- Maintaining built infrastructure in our communities falls to municipalities
 - Peterborough County has identified the need for \$135 million over the next 10 years to maintain the current built infrastructure and the City of Peterborough sites an infrastructure need of \$1.194 billion
- Peterborough was also impacted by decisions outside of its control
 - Trans-Canada pipelines decided not to pursue the Energy East Pipeline Project. As a Chamber we were disappointed by this decision along with the delays and changes to regulatory requirements by the federal government.

#PROTECTGROWTH

SUMMER OF PROPOSED TAX CHANGES

In July, the Federal government announced it was changing how it would tax private corporations in Canada.

The tax rules that these businesses followed were established in the early 1970's. The proposed changes were not well received by the many small and family-owned businesses that were built and had grown under the current rules.

By the time the Canadian Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting in Fredericton, New Brunswick rolled around, many businesses and chambers of commerce were pushing back.

Finance Minister Bill Morneau spoke at that conference, but business leaders were not comforted by his response to their concerns about the proposed tax changes.

WHAT HAD BUSINESSES SO CONCERNED?

Changes to the rules around:

- employing and compensating family members
- selling the business to a family member
- reinvestment of passive income

Businesses were also worried that the changes were not receiving the proper public consultation with the process occurring over the summer months at a length of 75 days.

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

- Peterborough Chamber opens survey soliciting feedback from members - September 2017
- Delegates at Canadian Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting pass a resolution recommending that the government:
 - Rethink the changes
 - Engage in meaningful consultation with the business community around tax reform
 - Complete a comprehensive review of the tax system with an eye to fairness and simplification of the system for all taxpayers
- Delegates at the CCC AGM in Fredericton sign petition card
- Peterborough Chamber members sign their own petition card at #LoveLocalExpo
- Peterborough Chamber uses survey responses and sends written submission to Finance Canada - September 2017
- Workshop on Federal Tax Changes at Business Summit - November 2017
- Response from Canadian business one of the most vocal in recent memory



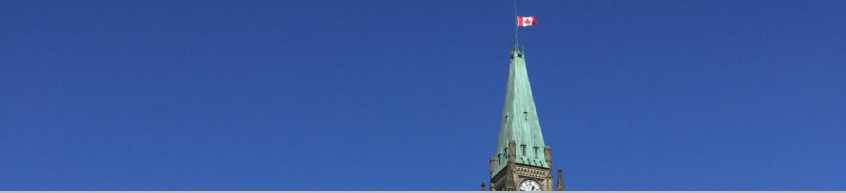
POLICY EVENTS & INITIATIVES

ROUNDTABLES

- Agrifood Roundtable - January 2017
- PC Leader Patrick Brown - February 2017
- Minister's Employment Table with Ontario Chamber of Commerce - April 2017
- Small Business Roundtable - June 2017
- Energy Minister Power Lunch - July 2017
- Federal Tax Changes Roundtable with MP Jamie Schmale - September 2017
- Small Business Roundtable in Toronto - October 2017

POLICY IN OUR COMMUNITY

- Member of MP's Jobs and Economic Development Council
- Steering Committee Member of the Mid-Size Cities Project
- Member of Community Wellbeing Plan Advisory Committee
- Participated in the Peterborough Aerospace Summit - September 2017
- Member of the Industry & Business Engagement Working Group for the Local Employment Planning Council Pilot Project
- Presentations to RBC Workshop and Musicfest Board on Bill 148
- Board Members of Greater Peterborough Innovation Cluster and Peterborough & the Kawarthas Economic Development
- Member of the City of Peterborough Official Plan Review Committee



POLICY AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL

- Employer Health Benefits Letter - January 2017
- Weeklong Policy Internship at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce - March 2017
- Cybercrime Webinar - May 2017
- NAFTA Conference Calls - June/August/September/October 2017
- Tax Changes Conference Call - August 2017
- Committee examining the Canadian Chamber Policy Process - November 2017

POLICY AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL

- Your Peterborough Chamber participated on several working groups through the Ontario Chamber of Commerce including:
 - Environmental & Infrastructure Advisory Council
 - Infrastructure Forum - June 2017
 - Skill & Workplace Development Policy Council
 - Forums in - April & October 2017
- Conference Calls on Interest Arbitration - January/February 2017
- Cap and Trade Meetings at Queen's Park - February 2017
- Conference Calls on Ontario Municipal Board Reform - March/April 2017
- Queen's Park Advocacy Day with Ontario Chamber - March 2017
- Peterborough Day at Queen's Park with Minister & MPP Jeff Leal - May 2017
- Tour of Darlington Nuclear - June 2017
- Policy Analyst Sandra Dueck co-chaired the Ontario Caucus to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce - June - September 2017
- Attended Ontario Economic Summit - November 2017



ENGAGE IN ADVOCACY

POLICY COMMITTEE

The Policy Committee meets once a month. This group advises how the Chamber should proceed on issues of concern to our membership.

"I am pleased with the significant work and collaboration the entire group and staff completed during the year. It was filled with important issues from Bill 148 to energy prices to proposed federal tax changes.

There is real focus at Peterborough Chamber of Commerce on advocacy and making a difference with and for SMEs."

**Dawn Hennessey,
Business Centre Manager, BDC
2017 Chair, Policy Committee**

STRATEGIC DISCUSSIONS

Throughout the course of 2017 the committee also engaged in strategic discussions around:

1. Policy Resolution Development
2. Land Use Planning
3. Vacancy Rebate Program Funding Allocation
4. Changing Workplaces Review
5. Bush Country Signs

IT'S IN THE MAIL

The Policy Committee also provided input on the following letters sent to our municipal, provincial and federal leaders:

1. Employer-sponsored Health Benefits
2. 2017 Federal Budget
3. Employment Lands MOU
4. Changing Workplaces Review
5. Proposed Federal Tax Changes
6. Bush Country Signs

Interested in joining the Policy Committee?

Contact:

Sandra Dueck, sandra@peterboroughchamber.ca

STAY IN THE LOOP

Keeping our Chamber members informed of the policy and advocacy work is crucial.

- **Voice of Business:** Read the weekly page in the Thursday Peterborough Examiner; online at peterboroughchamber.ca/voice-of-business
- **Videos:** Subscribe to the Chamber YouTube Channel to ensure you get the latest video: youtube.com/user/PeterboroughChamber
- **LinkedIn Policy Discussion Group:** Engage with this group and add your voice to the discussion about issues impacting your business community: linkedin.com/company/peterborough-chamber-of-commerce
- Watch for the bi-weekly **E-Newsletter**

