

Provincial Issues Committee (PIC) Outcome Report

June 30, 2017

Mandate

The Provincial Issues Committee will provide leadership in addressing provincial issues of importance to the Greater Sudbury business community. It will attempt to identify, communicate and remove barriers to doing business in the province and enhance the overall economic prosperity of Ontario.

Outcomes:

- 1. Work in partnership with the OCC on the policy issues it is addressing through its pipeline, and where appropriate, provide our input or collaborate on their recommendations. Communicate the outcomes with our members and other appropriate stakeholders (media, government, etc).**
 - PIC received a staff report on the OCC Policy Pipeline at its 6 October 2016 meeting.
 - PIC received an update from staff on the *Changing Workplaces Review* at its 6 October 2016 meeting
 - Published media releases on various issues on which the chamber collaborated with the OCC including the *Ontario Economic Report* (7 February 2017) and an OCC letter regarding interest arbitration (28 February 2017).
 - On 10 March 2017, the chamber hosted a local release of the OCC's *Ontario Economic Report*.
 - On 27 March 2017, the chamber participated in an Advocacy Day at Queen's park with chambers from across Ontario.
 - The chamber published advocacy snapshots highlighting work with OCC including snapshots regarding a report entitled *Obstacles and Opportunities for Small Business in Ontario* (19 October 2016), the 2016 Fall Economic Statement (15 November 2016), the OCC business confidence survey (24 November 2017), and the Ontario Economic Report (23 February 2017).
- 2. Develop an original policy resolution for submission to the OCC AGM. Potentially work in collaboration with northern chambers to co-sponsor these resolutions.**
 - Developed and submitted three original policy resolutions for submission to the OCC AGM.
 - The resolution entitled *Helping Industries and Communities Transition to a Low-Carbon Economy* was co-sponsored by the Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce, the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce, the North Bay and District Chamber of Commerce the Newmarket Chamber of Commerce and the Timmins Chamber of Commerce. This resolution was passed by delegates at the OCC AGM.
 - The resolution entitled *Addressing the Challenges of Ontario's Largest Economic Sector: Small Business* was co-authored by the Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce and co-sponsored by Kawartha Chamber of Commerce and Tourism,

Newmarket Chamber of Commerce, Trent Hills Chamber of Commerce, Northumberland Central Chamber of Commerce, Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce, Brighton/Cramahe Chamber of Commerce. This resolution was passed by delegates at the OCC AGM.

- The resolution entitled *Reducing Barriers to Interprovincial Labour Mobility* was co-sponsored by the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce, the Timmins Chamber of Commerce, and the Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce. This resolution was withdrawn from consideration because its recommendations had been addressed by the government by the time of the OCC AGM.
 - The GSCC co-sponsored seven resolutions submitted by other northern chambers.
 - The GSCC developed three policy resolutions for submission to the CCC AGM.
 - The resolution entitled *Addressing the Challenges of Canada's Largest Economic Sector: Small Business* was co-sponsored by the Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce, the North Bay and District Chamber of Commerce, the Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce, the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce, and the Timmins Chamber of Commerce.
 - The resolution entitled *Restoring Secret Ballot Voting for Union Certification* was co-sponsored by the North Bay and District Chamber of Commerce, the Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce, and the Timmins Chamber of Commerce.
 - The resolution entitled *Investing in Labour Market Information to Close the Skills Gap* was submitted by the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce because we had exceeded the limit of two resolutions per chamber. This resolution was co-sponsored by the Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce, the North Bay and District Chamber of Commerce, the Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce, and the Timmins Chamber of Commerce.
- 3. Consider other policy matters not currently being addressed by the OCC that impact our members and/or Northern Ontario. If possible, collaborate with other northern chambers on those matters with a more northern reach.**
- On 14 December 2016, the chamber partnered with the major Northern Ontario chambers to draft and make a northern submission into the Long-Term Energy Plan consultation process.
- 4. Share with our members and the broader business community our positions if and when feasible.**
- On 5 April 2017, the chamber released a letter in collaboration with the OCC regarding cap and trade.
 - The chamber published media releases regarding Ontario's tourism gap (17 November 2017), energy affordability and transparency (14 December 2017), the chamber's 2017 provincial pre-budget submission (23 February 2017), support for business regarding cap and trade (5 April 2017), the 2017 Ontario provincial budget (28 April 2017), policy resolutions passed at the OCC AGM (9 May 2017),

the final report of the Changing Workplaces Review (16 May 2017), and the *Fair Workplaces and Better Jobs Plan* (30 May 2017).

- On 12 May 2017, 26 May 2017, 5 June, 2017, and 19 June 2017, the chamber alerted members about the OCC spring survey and requested that they complete the survey.
- Chamber staff published advocacy snapshots on the followings issues: Ontario's Cap and Trade System (30 January 2017), Employer-Paid Health Benefits Will Not Be Taxed (3 February 2017), Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan (8 March 2017), Federal Budget 2017 (27 March 2017), Canadian Free Trade Agreement (10 April 2017), Industrial Conservation Initiative (30 May 2017), the Changing Workplaces Review (6 June 2017), Suspension of Unfair Provision in Anti-Spam Legislation (14 June 2016), and the Fair Workplaces and Better Jobs Act (23 June 2017).
- The activities of PIC are included in the monthly *Impact* newsletter.

5. Seek out opportunities to make a public presentation or to submit a written report on a matter of interest to our members.

- On 15 October 2016, the chamber made a submission in response to the interim report of the Changing Workplaces Review.
- On 13 December 2017, the chamber's Policy and Public Relations Manager presented a Provincial Pre-Budget Submission to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs.
- On 17 January 2017, the chamber submitted a letter to MP Marc Serré and MP Paul Lefebvre regarding the proposed federal taxation of health and dental benefits.
- On 23 January 2017, the chamber collaborated with reThink Green to provide remarks around the impact of electricity prices on business and conservation programs available for businesses. Chair of PIC spoke about her experiences with Save on Energy programs.
- On 15 February 2017, the chamber made a written pre-budget submission to the Ontario Minister of Finance.

Meetings:

From October 2016 to June 2017, PIC held 7 meetings (6 October 2016, 3 November 2016, 2 December 2016, 2 February 2017, 6 April 2017, 3 May 2017, and 1 June 2017). In place of the 10 March 2017 meeting of PIC, the chamber hosted a local release of the Ontario Economic Report to which all PIC members were invited. PIC did not meet in January.

Guest Speakers:

On 3 November 2016, PIC heard a presentation from Kati McCartney, Manager of Energy and Sustainability, Laurentian University regarding the impact of cap and trade on the university.

On 2 December 2016, PIC heard a presentation from Margeret Tomei, Ministry of Transportation regarding the Northern Ontario Multimodal Transportation Strategy.

On 2 February 2017, PIC heard a presentation from Marc Butler, Director of Regulatory Affairs, Sudbury Integrated Nickel Operation, a Glencore Company, regarding the impact of cap and trade on Glencore's operations.

On 6 April 2017, PIC heard a presentation via teleconference from Katie Sullivan, Senior Policy Analyst, Ontario Chamber of Commerce, regarding the OCC's work on skills and workforce development.

On 3 May 2017, PIC heard a presentation from Laura Voltti, account manager, Municipal Property Assessment Corporation regarding the property assessment process and the request for reconsideration process.

Other Research and findings received by PIC:

PIC received research and analysis from staff on the following topics:

- Ontario's Long Term Energy Plan review
- Proposed federal taxation of employer-sponsored health and dental benefits (the federal government ultimately decided not to tax these benefits)
- The 2017 Ontario Provincial Budget
- The *Fair Workplaces and Better Jobs Plan* (legislation resulting from the Changing Workplaces Review)