

PROVINCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE OUTCOMES REPORT 2017-2018

MANDATE

The Provincial Issues Committee (PIC) 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. The committee will pay particular attention to:

- Bill 148 (changes to labour and employment laws)
- access to skilled labour;
- energy prices; and
- the 2018 provincial election

OUTCOMES

Bill 148:

- 1. Continue our efforts, together with the OCC, to educate our members and the broader business community about the impacts of this legislation.**
 - On 1 November 2017, 17 November 2018, and 22 January 2018, the chamber released *Advocacy Snapshots* educating our members about the impacts of Bill 148.
 - On 14 May 2018, the chamber released an *Advocacy Snapshot* updating members on various other changes to labour and employment legislation.
- 2. Continue our strong advocacy efforts in opposition to Bill 148 and to communicate those efforts with all stakeholders.**
 - The chamber co-sponsored two policy resolutions submitted to the OCC AGM in opposition to various provisions of Bill 148: “*Scale back the ‘one-size-fits-all’ scheduling provision of Bill 148*” (co-sponsored with Newmarket) and “*Mitigating the Impact of Bill 148*” (co-sponsored with Peterborough).
 - On 18 January 2018, the chamber made a pre-budget submission to the provincial government. Among other things, this presentation advocated for offsetting the impacts of Bill 148.
 - On 28 March 2018, a chamber representative gave an interview concerning employee leave entitlements introduced by Bill 148.
 - On 7 May 2018, the Government of Ontario announced that it would review the public holiday pay system and, as an interim measure, reinstate the previous holiday pay system as of 1 July 2018.
- 3. Provide a members’ toolkit and/or host an event for the local business community to raise awareness about, and to provide information on, how to manage the implementation of Bill 148.**
 - On September 8, 2017, the chamber hosted a luncheon on Bill 148 *Changing Workplace Review* which features Karl Baldauf (OCC), Geoff Jeffery (labour lawyer), and Tracy Nutt (business owner) discussing the legislation, the

chamber's advocacy work on the issue, and how the legislation could impact the business community.

- On 1 November 2017, 17 November 2017 and 22 January 2018, the chamber issued *Advocacy Snapshots* featuring *Steering Through Change*, a handbook designed to help businesses navigate the changes introduced by Bill 148.
- On 22 November 2017, the chamber co-hosted an Employer Summit with the Workforce Planning for Sudbury & Manitoulin that featured a panel discussion with a local HR lawyer addressing questions around the impact of Bill 148.
- The chamber is planning a follow up event to educate local businesses about how to manage the impacts of Bill 148. This event will take place in September 2018 and is being hosted in collaboration with MNP.

Access to Skilled Labour:

1. Draw from the chamber's public policy survey to identify specific challenges and barriers to accessing and retaining skilled labour.

- On 7 November 2017, chamber staff presented findings from the 2017 Public Policy Survey to identify specific challenges and barriers to accessing and retaining skilled labour.

2. Consider surveying certain sectors of the membership isolate specific challenges within industry segments.

- The chamber declined to survey certain sectors of the membership as the committee decided to direct its energies elsewhere.

3. Utilize research from other sources to gain a fulsome understanding of the issues.

- On 5 December 2017, the committee reviewed WPSM's report entitled *Workforce Data: Trades*.
- On 4 January 2018, the committee heard a presentation from Reggie Caverson of Workforce Planning for Sudbury & Manitoulin on that organization's 'Big Six' report. This presentation focused on ensuring an adequate labour supply for several large construction projects in Greater Sudbury.
- On 1 February 2018, the committee heard a presentation from Scott Fisher of Professions North/Nord on secondary immigration.
- On 1 February 2018, the committee heard a presentation from Anuraj Bajwa of Cambrian College on international students.
- On 15 February 2018, the chamber co-released with the CCC *10 Ways to Build a Canada that Wins*, which highlighted strategies for developing an agile workforce.

4. Provide recommendations for increasing the availability of skilled labour for area businesses.

- On 18 January 2018, the chamber made a pre-budget submission to the provincial government. Among other things, this advocated for improving the quality of labour market information available in Ontario.
- The chamber submitted a policy resolution to the OCC AGM entitled "*Strengthening Labour Market Information for Business Competitiveness*". On 28 April 2018, this resolution was adopted by delegates at the AGM and became official OCC policy.

- On 30 April 2018, the chamber sent a letter to Mayor Bigger commending his support for the introduction of an immigration pilot program in Northern Ontario.

Energy Prices:

1. Conduct research to identify energy-related challenges and barriers to doing business in Greater Sudbury.

- On 15 March 2018, the committee heard a presentation from Andrew Thiele, Policy Analyst, Ontario Chamber of Commerce, regarding the OCC's energy advocacy.
- On 5 April 2018, the committee heard a presentation from Stephen Monet, Manager of Environmental Planning Services, City of Greater Sudbury, and Yuill Herbert, Sustainability Solutions Group regarding the Community Energy and Emissions Plan.

2. Provide information to members about energy-savings programs they can take advantage of.

- On 20 October 2017, the chamber co-hosted *Know Your Power*, an OCC-sponsored event educating business owners about cost saving programs and incentives.
- On 19 April 2018, the chamber advised a segment of the membership about the Business Refrigeration Incentive Program.

3. Make recommendations to the provincial government to advocate for change.

- On 18 January 2018, the chamber made a pre-budget submission to the provincial government. Among other things, this advocated for predictable and affordable energy prices, and the strategic allocation of cap and trade revenues.
- On 21 February 2018, the chamber sent a letter to the Hon. Chris Ballard, Minister of Environment and Climate Change regarding the strategic expenditure of cap and trade revenues.
- On 23 April 2018, the chamber made recommendations through the Ontario Chamber of Commerce concerning reforms to the Ontario Energy Board.

4. Review the Province's Long-Term Energy Plan and make recommendations concerning its implementation.

- On 7 November 2017 and on 5 December 2017, chamber staff presented a review of the Long-Term Energy Plan and its alignment with the GSCC's 2016 submission and the OCC's 2016 submission to the provincial government.
- On 3 April 2018, chamber representatives met with MPP Glenn Thibeault to discuss, among other things, the need for improved clarity in the Global Adjustment.

2018 Provincial Election:

1. Plan, market and host provincial election all candidates' events for the Nickel Belt and Sudbury Ridings.

- On 3 May 2018, the committee identified questions to be asked of candidates at the respective all candidates' events.
- On 23 May 2018, the chamber hosted an all candidates' event for candidates in the Sudbury Riding.

- On 29 May 2018, the chamber hosted an all candidates' event for candidates in the Nickel Belt Riding.
2. **Research and share with our members the platforms of the major political parties and how they compare with the interests of the business community.**
 - The chamber continues to share OCC analysis of party platforms through its website and through *Impact* newsletters.
 3. **Seek out ways to engage and educate our members and the broader business community about the election issues.**
 - On 11 October 2017, 14 February 2018, 3 May 2018, the chamber published media releases highlighting its provincial election platform, *Vote Prosperity*.
 - On 3 May 2018, a chamber representative gave an interview with CBC News concerning *Vote Prosperity* and the chamber's election priorities.
 - Leading up to the 2018 provincial election, the chamber promoted *Vote Prosperity* through its social media channels and through e-mail.

Other:

1. **Work in partnership with the OCC on policy issues it is addressing through its pipeline and, where appropriate, provide input or collaboration on these matters. Communicate the outcomes with our members and other appropriate stakeholders (media, government, etc). The OCC pipeline includes: a) health transformation; b) skills and workforce development; c) environment and infrastructure; and d) Ontario's energy challenge.**
 - On 11 October 2017, 14 February 2018, 3 May 2018, the chamber published media releases highlighting its provincial election platform, *Vote Prosperity*.
 - On 20 December 2017, chamber staff provided input to the OCC for its 2018 pre-budget submission.
 - On 15 March 2018, the committee heard a presentation from Andrew Thiele, Policy Analyst, Ontario Chamber of Commerce, regarding the OCC's energy advocacy.
 - On 26-29 April 2018, chamber representatives attended the OCC AGM to debate and vote upon policy resolutions.
2. **Develop at least one original policy resolution for submission to the OCC or CCC AGM. Potentially work in collaboration with northern chambers to co-sponsor any resolutions.**
 - The chamber re-submitted two resolutions to the OCC AGM, one entitled "*Strengthening Labour Market Information for Business Competitiveness*", and the second entitled "*Increasing Democracy in Ontario's Workplaces*". Both resolutions were adopted by delegates at the AGM.
 - The chamber co-sponsored four resolutions from other northern chambers: "*Putting Wood to Work*" (Thunder Bay), "*Address Quebec-Ontario Economic Mobility*" (Timmins), "*Maintaining Ontario Mining Tax Rates* (Timmins), and "*Protect Tourism Industry Competitiveness within the Municipal Accommodation Tax*" (Timmins).

- The chamber re-submitted a resolution to the CCC AGM entitled “*Improving IRCC’s (Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada) Regional Settlement Strategy*”.
- The chamber submitted an original resolution to the CCC AGM entitled “*Clarifying the Impact Assessment Act*”.
- The chamber co-sponsored two policy resolutions for the CCC AGM entitled “*Addressing labour needs through immigration policy*” and “*Air Crew-Duty Hours*”.

3. Monitor other provincial issues identified in the public policy survey and respond as necessary.

- On 18 January 2018, the chamber submitted a pre-budget submission to the provincial government. Among other things, this advocated for the development of the Ring of Fire, improved access to broadband internet, and expediting the four-laning of Highway 69.

4. Share with our members and the broader business community our positions.

- On 24 October 2017, the chamber released an *Advocacy Snapshot* applauding revisions to corporate tax reform proposals.
- On 29 March 2018 and 5 April 2018, the chamber published media releases responding to the 2018 provincial budget.
- On 30 April 2018, the chamber published a media release highlighting the policy resolutions it submitted to the OCC AGM. On 3 May 2018, the chamber released an *Advocacy Snapshot* on the same subject.

Advocacy Wins:

On 28 March 2018, the Government of Ontario announced a \$500 million investment in broadband for rural and Northern Ontario over three years.

On 28 March 2018, the Government of Ontario announced a grant to promote pooled group sponsorship models for apprentices.

On 7 May 2018, the Government of Ontario announced that it would review the public holiday pay system and, as an interim measure, reinstate the previous holiday pay system as of 1 July 2018.

Meetings:

From October 2017 to June 2018, the Provincial Issues Committee held 8 meetings (6 October 2017, 7 November 2017, 5 December 2017, 4 January 2018, 1 February 2018, 15 March 2018, 5 April 2018, 3 May 2018, and 31 May 2018).

Guest Speakers:

On 4 January 2018, the committee heard a presentation from Reggie Caverson of Workforce Planning for Sudbury & Manitoulin on that organization's 'Big Six' report.

On 1 February 2018, the committee heard a presentation from Scott Fisher of Professions North/Nord on secondary immigration.

On 1 February 2018, the committee heard a presentation from Anuraj Bajwa of Cambrian College on international students.

On 15 March 2018, the committee heard a presentation from Andrew Thiele, Policy Analyst, Ontario Chamber of Commerce, regarding the OCC's energy advocacy.

On 5 April 2018, the committee heard a presentation from Stephen Monet, Manager of Environmental Planning Services, City of Greater Sudbury, and Yuill Herbert, Sustainability Solutions Group regarding the Community Energy and Emissions Plan.

Committee Members

Kelly Scott, Barrydowne Paint (Chair)
Angie Keefe, ARC Climbing & Yoga
Alyson Laking, Laking Toyota
Cora DeMarco, Technica Mining
Geoff Jeffery, Weaver Simmons LLP
Amanda Zurkowski, Northern Business Solutions
Fred Slade, Slade & Associates
Nellie Lanteigne, *student*
Anuraj Bajwa, Cambrian College
Josh Lilley, Hatch
Louigi Salvati, Eastlink
Courtney Folz, CEMI
Genny Beckerton, New Sudbury Centre