



The NEWS Of December 2006

" WE NEED YOUR HELP "

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce and the Stouffville BIA have been approached by the Town through the (Leadership Committee for Business Retention and Expansion) to conduct a survey of Businesses. They are asking that we solicit volunteers from our membership. These volunteers will take training 2-3 hours in January 2007, to provide continuity to the survey process. They will then conduct interviews of 1 to 1 ½ hours with businesses within Whitchurch-Stouffville over the coming year. If you are able to commit this time, please call the Chamber for further details.

Many hands make a light load!

News From Legislative Watch:

Does your company need a Co-op student?

Over 40,000 co-op students from colleges and universities in Ontario are available for employment – hire a student to work at your company today!

These are the situations where students are especially helpful:

1. Need to attract talented young people to your organization.
2. Business is expanding
3. Urgent tasks are not getting done
4. Senior staff are wasting time performing entry-level tasks
5. "Burnout" is affecting staff
6. Having difficulty making new computer technologies work effectively
7. Lack of good candidates for your organizations full-time positions
8. Hiring too many freelancers and consultants
9. Busy periods that require temporary staff
10. Staff on leave of absence

Employers of co-op students may be eligible for an Ontario Tax Credit of up to \$1,000 per student.

Hire a co-op student today..... And build a bright future together.

For a list of schools in your area. Please visit: www.ewo.ca. Education at Work Ontario (EWO) is the voice of post secondary co-op education.

Employment Ontario

Chris Bentley, the Minister of Training, Colleges, and Universities recently announced “Employment Ontario”, a new website with updated training and employment system and information to a database program.

The website can be viewed at

www.ontario.ca/employmentontario

- A toll free number 1-800-387-5656 where individuals can make enquiries on related services
- Multilingual web access to information in 21 languages in addition to French and English

The OCC has been persistent in lobbying the government for a one-stop shop to hold information and data on apprenticeship training and skilled labour. Len Crispino, President & CEO for the OCC stated in the Minister’s press release that, “Today’s announcement is consistent with a recommendation in a recent report by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, which calls for a “one-stop shop” to house information about apprenticeship and training opportunities in order to overcome the lack of awareness about skilled trades. Employment Ontario removes one of the obstacles standing in the way of Ontario addressing its labour force needs”.

The OCC released “Taking Action On Skilled Trades” in September 2005 and “Retooling for a prosperous Ontario” in October 2006. Both these reports make recommendations for a one-stop shop in regards to apprenticeship training.

To view copies of these reports please click on the following links:

<http://occ.on.ca/Policy?Reports/30>

Contribute to the OCC’s 2007 policy development activities

We strongly encourage member chambers of commerce and boards to submit their policy resolutions before the deadline. Policy resolutions should be directed to Stuart Johnston, Vice President of Policy and Government Relations via e-mail:

stuartjohnston@occ.on.ca

Areas of focus for the resolutions should be related, but not limited, to the following areas: finance and taxation, health policy, transportation and infrastructure, education and training, energy, and borders and trade development.

For your reference, please find below the Guiding Principles that should be considered as resolutions are being developed, as well as the Format required for resolutions.

Guiding Principles:

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce provides the following guidelines to assist local chambers of commerce and boards of trade in determining if an issue is appropriate for consideration.

An issue must be:

- Provincial in scope or impact
- One that does not align one industry against another
- An important matter of principal that requires OCC to be on public record; and
- It should be on the legislative agenda of the government or be of considerable concern to a majority of members.

A template for use when submitting a resolution is available at:

<http://occ.on.ca/private/245>

Retooling for a prosperous Ontario

The OCC released a new report at this year's Ontario Economic Summit. "Retooling for a prosperous Ontario, A Global Perspective on Skilled Trades" explores best practices in other jurisdictions that have dealt with a shortage of skilled trades.

The report provides an update on Ontario's progress since the release of the Ontario Chamber's first report in September 2005 detailing initiatives that have been taken since that time and challenges currently facing Ontario.

The report also identifies that although some progress has been made in the area of skilled trades, many of the recommendations of September 2005 remain valid today.

Key themes emerge in the approaches in other jurisdictions leading the Ontario Chamber of Commerce to suggest that Ontario adopt a similar **approach. That approach would include: a strategic marketing campaign in order to "re-brand" the image of skilled trades in the eyes of all stakeholders; a skills strategy that reduces red tape and creates a "one-stop-shop" for apprenticeship services; and the elimination of barriers for internationally trained skilled trades workers.**

To view a copy of the report please click on the following link:

<http://occ.on.ca/Policy/Reports/266>

For further information please contact:

Mary Hogarth, Senior Policy Analyst,
416-482-5222 ext. 233

maryhogarth@occ.on.ca

Executive Officers 2006-2007

Chair of the Board

Janet Davies
Cedar Beach Park & Trailer Sales Ltd.

Secretary

Vicki Wilhelm
Visual Perspective

Treasurer

Lynda Sargeant
Lindy's Floral Boutique

Directors

Nitin Badhwar
Welcomehome Relocations Inc.

Michele Bell
Cole Engineering Group Ltd.

Sean Steenson
Novopharm Ltd.

Peter Taws
Keystone Benefits Inc.

Office Administration

President and CEO:

Helene Johnson

Melody Gagliardi

Tesha Olsen

Jon Stallan

Coming Events

December 7

11:30 Meet & Greet 12:15pm Lunch
Christmas Luncheon – Bring Your Staff to Lunch
Sleepy Hollow Golf & Country Club
13242 Tenth Line
Members \$40, Non -Members \$50
Entertainers- Dame Edna/Impersonator
- Jean Thomas/Pianist

January 17 – 8:00am

Networking Breakfast
YMCA Stouffville
27 Sandiford Dr., Unit 2
Stouffville
Members \$10, Non - Members \$15

**Merry Christmas and a Prosperous
New Year**



Contacting Address:

W/S Chamber of Commerce
6176 Main Street, PO Box 1500
Stouffville, ON L4A 8A4
Tel: 905-642-4227
Fax: 905-642-8966
chamber@whitchurchstouffville.ca
www.whitchurchstouffville.ca