

## **Legislative Watch**

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### **Important OCC Staff Update**

Bridget Hauserman, OCC Policy Research Assistant, has decided to continue her academic career, and in the fall will begin law studies at York University's Osgoode Hall. In the six months that Bridget has worked at the OCC, she has consistently proven herself to be an invaluable resource and a great team member (witness her outstanding work in drafting the OCC's *Cost of Border Delays* study). And while we are currently pursuing an appropriate replacement, it is without a doubt that Bridget has left big shoes to fill and she will be sorely missed. Bridget will remain with the OCC until Friday, August 20, 2004. Join us as we wish Bridget success in her future endeavours.

Interested applicants should have a university degree in political science or a related field. The individual must have a strong understanding of Ontario's political structure and legislative processes, in addition to possessing superior administrative, research and writing skills.

If you know someone who may be interested in the position, please encourage them to visit the Career Edge website, [www.careeredge.ca](http://www.careeredge.ca), for more information. Career Edge offers paid internships for university graduates in a number of fields. Graduates gain valuable work experience that can launch their career in their chosen field. The application deadline is July 23, 2004 and only Career Edge applicants will be considered.

### **OCC Requests Your Greenbelt Feedback**

In December 2003, the Government of Ontario introduced Bill 27, the proposed Greenbelt Protection Act, 2004. The act is intended to create a Greenbelt Study Area in the Golden Horseshoe with the intent to protect environmentally sensitive land, and farmland and contain urban sprawl. The act will put in place a moratorium on changes from rural to urban uses inside the study area which would allow time for consultations with stakeholders and the public on what the greenbelt should entail, while protecting rural areas from further urbanization. There is a freeze on development for one year.

The OCC recently sent a submission to the government outlining several areas of concern and also met with the Greenbelt Task Force Chair and Mayor of Burlington, Robert MacIsaac on June 14 to discuss the issue in greater detail. The letter can be viewed at [http://www.occ.on.ca/2policysubmissions/Greenbelt\\_06092004.pdf](http://www.occ.on.ca/2policysubmissions/Greenbelt_06092004.pdf).

In continuing our advocacy on this issue, the OCC is asking that all members forward their issues or concerns on the proposed legislation. Please send your comments to Stuart Johnston at [stuartjohnston@occ.on.ca](mailto:stuartjohnston@occ.on.ca) as soon as possible. For more information on the legislation including backgrounders and discussion papers, please visit [http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts\\_1\\_16289\\_1.html](http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts_1_16289_1.html).

## **OCC Calls For Input on Planning Issues**

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing announced on June 1 that it is taking the next steps towards proposed reforms to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) and the land-use planning system. The government has proposed reforms to the Planning Act through Bill 26, the proposed Strong Communities (Planning Amendment) Act, 2004. The Ministry has produced three discussion papers addressing issues related to the planning reform initiatives and is requesting that stakeholders provide their input no later than August 31.

In preparing a response to this issue, the OCC kindly requests that member chamber's policy committees review the discussion papers and provide their responses to the OCC as soon as possible. The discussion papers can be found at [http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts\\_1\\_17395\\_1.html](http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts_1_17395_1.html).

If your chamber or board has reviewed the discussion paper we strongly encourage you to send your comments to Bridget Hauserman, [bridgethauserman@occ.on.ca](mailto:bridgethauserman@occ.on.ca), as soon as possible.

## **Team Ontario Sets Schedule; Proxies Needed for Convention**

Members of Team Ontario have begun their annual work in preparation for the Canadian Chamber of Commerce's (CCC) annual policy convention and AGM. The convention will take place in Calgary, Alberta from September 18-20, 2004.

Team Ontario had their first meeting on June 29 to discuss the format for Team Ontario 2004, as well as to establish the meeting schedule for the month of August, and to identify a third co-chair for the sessions. This year's co-chairs for the Team are Todd Letts of the Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce, Gerry Macartney of the London Chamber of Commerce, and Stuart Johnston of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. Future meetings will be held twice a week for the month of August. If you are interested in participating in Team Ontario please contact Rachel Kagan at [rachelkagan@occ.on.ca](mailto:rachelkagan@occ.on.ca).

The CCC's proposed policy resolutions will be available on its website, [www.chamber.ca](http://www.chamber.ca), at the beginning of August. The purpose of Team Ontario is to coordinate responses to these resolutions, from an Ontario standpoint, and provide recommendations on each one.

To ensure an adequate Ontario representation at the caucus meeting we encourage all those Ontario chambers and boards who are members of the CCC, but are unable to attend the convention, to tender their proxy to the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. If you have not received the proxy form sent in the email, please email Rachel Kagan. For those that have received their form, **please** send the completed form to Rachel via fax at (416) 482-5879.

## **OCC President Panelist at Upcoming Urban Leadership Series Border Issues**

Len Crispino will be participating as a panelist at an upcoming Canadian Urban Institute event, as part of the CUI's Urban Leadership Series. The session, *Relieving Border Gridlock*, will be held Friday July 23, 2004, from 8:30 – 11:00am, at the Metropolitan Hotel, Mandarin Ballroom, 18 Chestnut Street, Toronto.

The keynote presentation will be given by the Honourable Harinder Takhar, MPP, Minister of Transportation, following which a group of panelists will provide presentations. Mr. Crispino will be part of this panel and will speak about the OCC's recent report on clogged borders and their cost to the Ontario economy. The study can be found at .

Other panelists include Len Kozachuk, Vice President, URS Canada Inc., David Bradley, President, Ontario Trucking Association, and Diane Gagner, Mayor, The Municipality of Chatham-Kent.

Online registration for this event is available from the CUI website at [http://www.canurb.com/events/event\\_details.php?id=85](http://www.canurb.com/events/event_details.php?id=85).

### **Pickering A to Return to Service to Address Growing Demand for Electricity**

In an announcement made on July 7, the Ontario government announced that Unit 1 of the Pickering A nuclear generating station will be returned to service. The Honourable Dwight Duncan, Minister of Energy, approved the Ontario Power Generation (OPG) plan to restart the Pickering A nuclear plant which has been inactive for seven years.

In remarks made by the Chairman of OPG, Jake Epp commented that they have incorporated the lessons learned returning Unit 4 to service into the Unit 1 project. OPG has also reviewed each of the 18 recommendations on Pickering A by the John Manley's OPG Review Committee, as well as the recommendations of the Pickering A Review Panel. The Unit 1 return to service is expected to cost \$900 million and should be returned to full service by September 2005.

To view the complete news release and related backgrounders, please visit the Ministry's website at [http://www.energy.gov.on.ca/index.cfm?fuseaction=english.news&news\\_id=67&body=yes](http://www.energy.gov.on.ca/index.cfm?fuseaction=english.news&news_id=67&body=yes).

### **ESA Amended as Bill 56 Receives Royal Assent**

The Employment Standards Amendment Act (Family Medical Leave), 2004 (Bill 56) has received Royal Assent, and as a result, the Employment Standards Act, 2000 (ESA, 2000) has been amended to entitle employees to up to eight weeks of unpaid, job-protected family medical leave.

This legislation allows families to care for a family member in poor health, without fear of losing their job. Full- and part-time employees, whether permanent or contract, who are covered by ESA, 2000 entitled to up to eight weeks of unpaid family medical leave, if a qualified health practitioner issues a certificate stating that the family member has a serious medical condition with a significant risk of death within a 26-week period.

An employee may take family medical leave to provide care or support to their spouse, parent, step-parent, foster parent, child, step-child or foster child of the employee or the employee's spouse.

For more information on the Family Medical Leave, please visit the Ministry of Labour's website at <http://www.gov.on.ca/LAB/english/news/2004/04-76.html>. You may find a copy of Bill 56 on the Legislative Assembly of Ontario website at [http://www.ontla.on.ca/documents/Bills/38\\_Parliament/Session1/b056ra\\_e.htm](http://www.ontla.on.ca/documents/Bills/38_Parliament/Session1/b056ra_e.htm).

## **Management Board Releases Proposal for Securities Regulation Reform**

On June 24, 2004, the Ontario government released its discussion paper "Modernizing Securities Regulation In Canada", which outlines the province's proposal for securities regulation reform in Canada.

The Honourable Gerry Phillips, MPP, Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet, is the Minister responsible for securities regulations. Each province and territory currently has its own system of securities regulation. The Ontario proposal envisions provinces and territories working together to move to a new securities regulatory framework that features a common securities regulator, a common body of securities law and a single fee structure. In the weeks ahead Ontario will review its proposal in discussions with the other provinces and territories and industry stakeholders. To view Ontario's proposal go to <http://www.gov.on.ca/MBS/english/mbs/releases/general/june2404-report.html>.

At the 2003 AGM & Convention, delegates passed a resolution proposed by the Toronto Board of Trade entitled Provincial and Territorial Co-operation Towards Creating a National Securities Regulatory System. The resolution recommends that the provincial government work with the governments of other Canadian provinces, territories and Canada towards the creation of a national securities regulation system that would harmonize securities regulatory requirements across Canada while accommodating regional issues within a national context.

## **Upcoming Events**

Listed below are some upcoming events that may be of interest:

- OCC Education Committee Meeting, July 15, 2004
- OCC Borders and Trade Development Committee Meeting, July 21
- Civic Holiday – OCC Offices Closed, August 2
- OCC Health Policy Committee Meeting, August 3
- OCC Education Committee Meeting, August 5
- OCC Board of Directors Meeting, August 6
- OCC Energy Task Force Meeting, August 11
- Team Ontario Conference Call, August 12
- Ontario Economic Summit (OES), Niagara-on-the-Lake, October 6-7
- Outstanding Business Achievement Awards (OBAA) Gala Dinner, November 10