

Should the Ontario Government End Mandatory Retirement – Have Your Say

On August 19, 2004, the McGuinty government announced its plans to end mandatory retirement in Ontario. The Ministry of Labour will be conducting public consultations with interested stakeholder groups in September. The consultation paper, *Providing Choice: A Consultation Paper on Ending Mandatory Retirement*, is available on the Ministry's website, <http://www.gov.on.ca/LAB/english/>, along with its news release and related backgrounders.

The OCC is launching its member survey on ending mandatory retirement in Ontario on **Tuesday, September 7, 2004**. Please take a few moments to complete the survey once it is sent to you and posted on our website. The purpose of this survey is to gather information on the views of OCC members on the Ontario Government's proposal to end mandatory retirement. The OCC will use the results of this survey to prioritize areas of focus and to assist in the development of policy positions.

Please review the OCC Backgrounder before completing the survey.

(It is available on our website at www.occ.on.ca)

Due to the timing of the government consultations, the survey will end on **Tuesday, September 14, 2004**. Please take a few moments to complete the survey, and we encourage you to forward it to your members to ensure that businesses across the province have the opportunity to provide their input for government consultations on ending mandatory retirement in Ontario.

If you have any technical questions, please contact our Webmaster, Elizabeth Lopez at webmaster@occ.on.ca.

Your feedback is appreciated.

OCC Transportation and Infrastructure On the Go...

The OCC's Transportation and Infrastructure has had an active summer and is continuing to be on the go for the fall. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee last met on September 1, 2004. The committee received a presentation from Bill Ralph, CEO of the Ontario Strategic Infrastructure Financing Authority (OSIFA). OSIFA is an agency of the Ministry of Finance but was created under the auspices of the Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal and was outlined in the 2004 Ontario Budget. It is a financing tool that can be used by municipalities to renew and build critical public infrastructure assets. OSIFA also provides the federal government with an opportunity to partner with Ontario in renewing critical public infrastructure. More information on OSIFA is available from its website at <http://www.osifa.on.ca/index.html>.

The Committee continues to be active surrounding the issues of the Greenbelt Protection Act, 2004, and plans to prepare a submission for the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

(MMAH) outlining its concerns with the Greenbelt Task Force Study's recommendations. The Study was released at the end of August and presented to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The OCC originally prepared a submission to the Task Force on June 9 and met with its Chair, Burlington Mayor Rob MacIsaac, on June 10. However, the OCC has a number of concerns the Study's final recommendations and will be presenting the MMAH with a written submission later this month.

On August 31, 2004, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce presented its written submission to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for its planning reforms consultations. The OCC also sent the submission to the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on General Government for its consultations on Bill 26, *An Act to Amend the Planning Act*. Independent of one another, the Ministry and Committee have been conducting stakeholder consultations regarding the Act. The complete submission can be found on the OCC website at www.occ.on.ca.

Regarding other issues, the OCC is continuing to monitor issues surrounding the Mid-Peninsula Transportation Corridor and other rail, aviation and marine transportation issues. The OCC is trying to convene meetings with federal counterparts to discuss border issues. The next meeting of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will take place on Wednesday, October 3, 2004.

Thank You For Your OBAA Nominations – Now Buy Your Tables!

Thank you to all the chambers of commerce and boards of trade in Ontario who have submitted their nominations for this year's Outstanding Business Achievement Awards (OBAA). We have received a record number of outstanding nominations for this year's awards and our judges have their work cut out for them!

This year's dinner should be the best ever. It will take place on **November 10, 2004** at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre in Toronto. Tables of ten are available to chambers and boards for \$2,000. Visit the OBAA page of the website at <http://occ.on.ca/2obaa.asp> and submit your registration today...tables are selling quickly!

For information on the OBAA Awards Dinner, please contact Colleen MacIntyre, Events Coordinator, via email at colleenmacintyre@occ.on.ca or by telephone at (416) 482-5222, extension 222.

Revamped OCC Home Page

If you haven't already seen it, visit the OCC's website to view the new layout design on the index homepage. It is fresh, less cluttered, content is easier to find, and there has been a recent addition to the home page. The new section is 'Focus', and as its title suggests will focus on specific, topical, business and political provincial issues. Relevant issues will be at the forefront of the homepage's new design. Watch out for focus issues on mandatory retirement, the 2004 Federal Pre-Budget Consultations, as well as other future policy issues and events. We welcome your input for any ideas for this new section.

Empire Club of Canada Hosts OCC President and CEO

On Tuesday, September 28, 2004, the Empire Club of Canada is hosting OCC President and CEO, Len Crispino, as its keynote luncheon speaker. The event is being sponsored by Canada NewsWire and is taking place at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre in Toronto. Tickets are available from the Empire Club's website at http://www.empireclubfoundation.com/events_db.asp#Tuesday,%20September%2028,%202004.

Mr. Crispino's address is entitled "Together – Building Prosperity for Ontario" and will focus on the OCC's plan to move Ontario to the next stage of economic leadership - forging alliances between business, labour, government and academia to build prosperity for Ontario.

Upcoming Events

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

- Labour Day, OCC Offices Closed, September 6
- Governing Council Policy Resolutions Submission Deadline, September 8
- OCC Economic Opportunity Tours, Cleveland, September 8-9
- OCC Board of Directors Meeting, September 10
- OCC Finance & Taxation Committee Meeting, September 14
- OCC Health Policy Meeting, September 14
- Canadian Chamber of Commerce AGM, Calgary, September 18-20
- Ontario Business Advisory Council (OBAC) with Minister Cordiano, September 22
- Empire Club Keynote Luncheon with Len Crispino, September 28
- Ontario Economic Summit (OES), Niagara-on-the-Lake, October 6-7
- Outstanding Business Achievement Awards (OBAA) Gala Dinner, November 10
- Governing Council, November 19