

Team Ontario 2004 Caucus Meeting – Don't Miss It!

The 2004 Canadian Chamber of Commerce (CCC) Annual General Meeting will be taking place next weekend, September 18 to 20, in Calgary, Alberta.

Ontario Caucus Meeting

When: **Sunday, September 19, 2004**
Where: **Eau Claire North Room of the Westin Calgary Hotel**
Agenda: **Breakfast at 7:00am; meeting promptly at 7:30am – 8:30am**

Please Do Not Miss the Caucus Meeting!

Unfortunately, due to the Canadian Chamber's tight timelines, the Team only has one hour to review the resolutions and present its recommendations. Since there is not enough time to review each individually, only the most significant items will be focused on, namely the Fiscal Policy and Borders resolutions. Please note that as with prior years, all delegates attending the caucus meeting will receive a package containing the "Resolutions Index" which will highlight the recommended action for each resolution, it will also include any revised, late or amended resolutions, and the PowerPoint Presentation for the review and discussion of the CCC resolutions. Please note once again that the Team's steering committee will not be going into great detail on each resolution, unless delegates expressly indicate otherwise.

If your chamber of board has a specific concern or resolution that you would like addressed at the caucus meeting, please advise Stuart Johnston via email at stuartjohnston@occ.on.ca, of your issue/ concern and what your proposed recommendation or course of action is. Please submit your email no later than Wednesday, September 15, 2004. Thank you for your cooperation.

Over the summer a series of conference calls have been conducted to review, refine, and cast votes on policies that will make up the debates in Calgary. The Team coordinates responses to the CCC's proposed policy resolutions and reviews them from an Ontario standpoint.

The resolutions cover a variety of topics including Finance and Taxation, Environment and Natural Resources, Government Operations, Industry issues, International Affairs, Justice, Social Policy, and lastly, Transportation and Infrastructure issues. The proposed resolutions for 2004 are available on the CCC's website at www.chamber.ca.

Remember, if you are attending the CCC's AGM in Calgary **PLEASE BE SURE TO ATTEND THE ONTARIO CAUCUS MEETING ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 AT 7:00AM.**

Thank you.

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.

We encourage all chambers and boards to attend this event.

Tickets can be reserved on the Empire Club's website at

http://www.empireclubfoundation.com/events_db.asp#Tuesday,%20September%2028,%202004.

Single tickets are \$45 for members, \$55 for non-members & tables of 10 are available for \$500.

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.

OCC Appreciates Your Feedback on Ending Mandatory Retirement in Ontario

Should the Ontario Government End Mandatory Retirement – Have Your Say

We have received an overwhelming response to the OCC's member survey on ending mandatory retirement. Thank you to all the chambers and boards who have already taken the time to complete the survey and pass it on to their members.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to have your say, we strongly encourage you to take a few moments to complete the Mandatory Retirement Survey which can be found at the following link: http://www.occ.on.ca/cgi-bin/2_2004MandatoryRetirement/index.asp.

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

http://occ.on.ca/2obsresults/2004/MandatoryRetirementBackgrounder_092004.pdf

Due to the timing of the government consultations, the survey will end on **Tuesday, September 14, 2004.**

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

Your feedback is appreciated.

OCC Meets with Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities

On Thursday, September 9, 2004, the OCC met with The Honourable **Mary Anne Chambers**, MPP, Minister of Training Colleges and Universities (MTCU), along with senior members of her political staff.

The OCC updated the Minister on its 2004 adopted education and training resolutions, provided highlights from its two member surveys on education and skilled trades issues that were conducted last year, invited the Minister to participate in the upcoming Skilled Trades Workshop in November and discussed the potential areas of collaboration between the OCC and the MTCU.

The Minister was very receptive to our initiatives, especially the new Skills Award that is being presented at this year's Outstanding Business Achievement Awards (OBAA) and believes that this is an important initiative to increase the awareness of skilled trades and apprenticeship in Ontario. She was also very supportive of the OCC's plans to conduct a workshop on skilled trades in Ontario which will be taking place in November, more details to follow.

The Minister discussed several of her government's key initiatives and stressed the importance of increasing awareness of skilled trades issues. We discussed such issues as Career Bridge, certifying internationally-trained professionals as well as the European experience with skilled trades. As well, the Minister encouraged us to provide a submission into the government's review on post-secondary funding, being chaired by former Ontario Premier Bob Rae. More information on the review can be found at <http://www.raereview.on.ca/>. A Discussion Paper on postsecondary education will be released in late September.

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.

Upcoming Events

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

- 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
- Thanksgiving, OCC Offices Closed, October 11
- OCC Energy Task Force Meeting, October 13
- OCC Education Committee Meeting, October 13
- OCC Finance & Taxation Meeting, October 14
- OCC Borders & Trade Development Committee Meeting, October 20
- OCC Transportation & Infrastructure Meeting, October 27
- Queen's Park Liaison Forum (QPLF) – Border Issues, October 29
- Outstanding Business Achievement Awards (OBAA) Gala Dinner, November 10
- Governing Council, November 19