

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.

[Download the flyer with information on how to purchase tickets and tables for the luncheon.](#)

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.

C.D. Howe Institute Announced Formation of New Tax Competitiveness Centre

In an address to a business audience at the Economic Club of Toronto today, Jack Mintz, President and CEO of the C.D. Howe Institute, announced the formation of a Tax Competitiveness Centre to promote research on Canada's tax system. It was a timely announcement as today also marks the 87th anniversary of the promulgation of the Federal Income Tax Act.

In his remarks, Mr. Mintz commented on Canada's tax landscape of 1917 and stated that the then-Finance Minister Sir Thomas White would not be impressed by today's tax policies that give Canada a reputation of "heavy taxation." Mr. Mintz believes that the current tax system in Canada is in need of reform in order to foster competitiveness.

The newly proposed Centre will be a source of research on tax policy. The C.D. Howe Institute is a Canadian independent, non-partisan, non-profit economic policy research institution. To view today's press release and Mr. Mintz's speech to the Economic Club of Toronto, or related tax publications, please visit its website at www.cdhowe.org.

Chiropractic Association Releases Report on Impact of Delisting of Services

Today, the Ontario Chiropractic Association (OCA) released its report entitled *Impact of Delisting Chiropractic Services*, prepared by Deloitte Consulting Inc. for the OCA. The report quantifies the cost implications of the government's plan to cancel funding for chiropractic services, as well as its projected impact on Ontario's hospital emergency rooms and family doctors. The full report is available from the OCA website at <http://www.chiropractic.on.ca>.

The report is intended to provide an analysis of the impact of the delisting of Chiropractic services and was based on extensive quantitative and qualitative analysis. According to the report, approximately 10% or 1.2 million people in Ontario visit a chiropractor each year; of that, according to a survey, more than half indicate that the delisting of this service will discourage them from continuing to seek care from a chiropractor. The report warns of several consequences from this delisting, including

reduced access to service and longer wait times as a result of the off-loading of patients from chiropractors to family doctors, with an approximate price tag of the impact being estimated at \$125 million per year.

In the 2004 Ontario Budget the McGuinty government announced the delisting of chiropractic, optometry and physiotherapy services from the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP). While no specific dates have been announced, Watson Wyatt – a global consulting firm – predicts that chiropractic and optometry services will be delisted sometime in the fall of this year while physiotherapy services will be delisted in spring 2005.

The delisting of chiropractic services from OHIP terminates over 30 years of public funding for this service and is expected to save the Ontario government approximately \$200 million over two years (as announced by Minister Sorbara in a press conference following the presentation of the 2004 Ontario Budget in May).

New Information Bulletin Posted on Ontario Health Premium

The OCC's Health Policy Committee has prepared an Information Bulletin on the new Ontario Health Premium that came into effect on July 1, 2004. The Bulletin provides helpful information on the Premium, its structure, how it is collected, and most importantly, how it will impact businesses in Ontario. It can be downloaded at http://occ.on.ca/members/2committees/health/InfoBulletin_092004.pdf.

Previewing Ontario's Workplace Gateway

The Ministry of Labour invites all chamber and board members to preview Ontario's Workplace Gateway, a new website created by the Ministry of Labour to provide information on a range of workplace-related information. You can access the Workplace Gateway at <http://www.cbs.gov.on.ca/obc/english/workplacegateway/index.htm> or through the Ministry of Labour's website at <http://www.gov.on.ca/LAB/english/>, just click on the Workplace Gateway button.

The Workplace Gateway combines links to a number of web-based resources for specific industry sectors like construction, restaurants, tourism, and bed and breakfasts. The Workplace Gateway also provides access to information about the rights and responsibilities of employers and workers under employment standards and health and safety laws and regulations. The website has answers to frequently asked questions about pay, health and safety, benefits and a range of other topics.

The goal of the new website is to meet the needs of Ontarians by utilizing the flexibility and responsiveness of web-based technology to keep the Workplace Gateway up-to-date, relevant and helpful.

The Ministry of Labour invites you to provide your input on its contents as well as any suggestions you may have for improvement. If you wish to comment on the Workplace Gateway, please contact Duncan Martin at the Ministry of Labour by e-mail at Duncan.Martin@mol.gov.on.ca or by telephone at (905) 577-1270.

Tories Vote for Tory as New Leader of PC Party

On Saturday, September 18, 2004, John Tory was voted to succeed Ernie Eves as the Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario. Also on the ballot were former Finance Minister and Deputy Premier Jim Flaherty, MPP, and former Transportation Minister Frank Klees, MPP.

Tory won 5,391 electoral points, 54%, to Flaherty's 4,664, or 46%, on the second ballot. On the first ballot, Tory won 4,535 points, 45%, to Flaherty's 3,274, 32%, and Klees' 2,265, 22 per cent. Under the preferential ballot system, the second choice indicated on the ballots of those who initially voted for Klees determined the winner. In total, 33,506 of 61,104 eligible voters cast ballots.

John Tory is the former Chief Executive Officer of Rogers Cable Inc., Canada's largest broadband cable operator and was CEO of Rogers Cable Inc. from 1999 until 2003. Prior to that, he was President and Chief Executive Officer of Rogers Media Inc., a broadcasting and publishing company, from 1995 to 1999. Prior to joining Rogers, Mr. Tory was a Managing Partner and member of the executive committee at Tory Tory DesLauriers & Binnington, a large Canadian law firm. Mr. Tory was educated at the University of Toronto and Osgoode Hall Law School.

Ten-Year Action Plan on Health Announced

The agreement that was negotiated at last week's first ministers' conference on health care gives the provinces \$18 billion over six years. In total, the Prime Minister announced \$41 billion over the next 10 years of new federal funding in support of the action plan on health.

Some highlights of the Plan include:

- \$3B will be invested over this year and next, providing \$1B in 2004-05 and \$2B in 2005-06 through a supplement to the CHT for provinces and territories
- The new CHT level will also reflect an additional \$500M in 2005-06 to help with home care and catastrophic drug coverage
- A new CHT base at \$19B will be established in 2005-06
- An escalator of 6% will be applied to the new CHT effective 2006-07 to provide predictable growth in federal support bringing the cash transfers for health to the provinces and territories from \$16.5 billion in 2005-06, to about \$24 billion in 2009-10. In that year, CHT cash will be 45% above the current level.
- Combined with the value of the CHT tax points, the federal transfer to provinces and territories for health will be approximately \$30.6B in 2005-06.
- To reduce wait times, the Government will invest \$4.5B over the next six years, beginning in 2004-05, in the Wait Times Reduction Fund.
- In 2010-11, \$250 million ongoing will be added to the CHT base primarily for health human Resources
- The Government will also invest a further \$500 million in Medical Equipment
- The Government is also providing \$700 million over five years to improve the health of Aboriginal people through a series of new federal commitments.

For more information on the 10-year plan please visit the PM's website at www.pm.gc.ca.

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.

Attention OCC Members: Modification to MasterCard Merchant Discount Rate

We have recently been notified by Global Payments that their Ontario Chamber of Commerce members preferred MasterCard rate will be increased from 1.85% to 1.89% as of October 1, 2004.

If you have an questions, please contact Ross Ankenmann, 1-866-883-7996 ext. 74309, or via email at ross.ankenmann@globalpay.com.

Upcoming Events

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

- 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