

## **Have Your Say in Higher Education Discussions**

The Honourable Bob Rae, former Ontario Premier and current Advisor to the Premier and Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, has released a Discussion Paper, *Higher Expectations for Higher Education*, and announced a variety of opportunities for Ontarians to provide their feedback and participate in the discussions surrounding post-secondary education issues. The paper can be found on the Rae Review website at [www.raereview.on.ca](http://www.raereview.on.ca), on the left hand side under the item “Get Involved.”

The post-secondary review, announced in the 2004 Ontario Budget, is examining the current design and funding of Ontario’s post-secondary education system. Bob Rae and his distinguished seven-member advisory panel, including former Ontario Premier The Honourable Bill Davis, TD Chief Economist Don Drummond, and Huguette Labelle, chancellor of the University of Ottawa, among others, will be delivering their recommendations to the Premier and the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities in early 2005.

Through the review and consultation process Rae hopes to define higher expectations for the province’s higher education system, and to develop a plan for a higher-quality, affordable and accountable post-secondary education system. The review is being carried out in three stages:

- Examining past studies and reports on post-secondary education and undertaking research and analysis of best practices in Ontario, other parts of Canada and the world. A significant amount of this research is available on the Rae Review website under the menu item “Resource Room.” You also have the option to recommend a particular research document to be posted on the website that you think should be brought to the attention of the review panel. For more details please visit the Review’s website.
- Listening to Ontarian’s ideas about post-secondary education.
- Developing recommendations to the government.

The OCC strongly encourages **all** chambers and boards to get involved in this important debate.

You have several options:

### **1 Town Hall Meetings**

Mr. Rae will host a total of 17 public town hall meetings as follows:

- Thunder Bay, October 4
- Niagara-on-the-Lake, October 7
- North Bay, October 18
- Sudbury, October 19
- Hamilton, October 20

- Ottawa (2), October 25
- Toronto (West), November 15
- Peterborough, November 22
- Kingston, November 23
- Guelph, November 24
- Oshawa, November 25
- Kitchener / Waterloo, November 25
- Windsor, December 1
- London, December 1
- Toronto (North/East), December 3
- Toronto (Central), December 8

Town Hall meetings are open to the general public and the media. Venues for Town Hall meetings are being finalized and venue information and addresses will be posted on this website once confirmed. Where possible, meetings will be held on campuses of postsecondary institutions. Check the Review's website frequently for updated information.

## **2 Written Submissions**

Written submissions may be sent through the Review's website or directly to the Postsecondary Review Secretariat, 2 Bloor Street West, Toronto, ON M4W 3R1. Written submissions must be received by November 15, 2004. The OCC's Education Committee will be preparing a substantial submission and will be providing members with the opportunity to give their feedback. We welcome and any comments and input you have. Please email Rachel Kagan at [rachelkagan@occ.on.ca](mailto:rachelkagan@occ.on.ca).

## **3 Completing the Online Workbook**

The workbook that accompanies the Discussion Paper can be completed online, or on paper and faxed to (416) 323-6895, or mailed to the above address. The workbook will be available for completion online until December 10, 2004.

## **4 Roundtable Dialogues**

In addition the above, there will be a number of roundtable dialogues that will bring stakeholders with different experiences, insights and perspectives together in facilitated discussions. Participants in these sessions are being nominated by key stakeholder groups.

<p><i>For additional information please contact the Secretariat at 1-866-392-1261.</i></p>
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## **OCC Requests Your Input For 2004 Federal Pre-Budget Consultations**

For the past two years the Ontario Chamber of Commerce has prepared a submission for the Standing Committee on Finance's Federal Pre-Budget consultations. The OCC reviews national issues from an Ontario-standpoint and provides the federal government with recommendations and key OCC positions on provincial issues that have a federal impact, and vice-versa.

This year the OCC wishes to gain feedback and input into the submission from OCC members through a member survey. The purpose of this survey is to identify federal policy issues, from an Ontario perspective, that are important to chamber members. The OCC will use the results of this survey to develop its 2004 Federal Pre-Budget Submission and prioritize areas of focus to assist in the development of policy positions.

Please take a few moments to complete the 2004 Federal Pre-Budget Survey which can be found at the following link: [http://www.occ.on.ca/cgi-bin/2\\_2004FederalPreBudgetSurvey/index.asp](http://www.occ.on.ca/cgi-bin/2_2004FederalPreBudgetSurvey/index.asp). **Please** forward it to your members to ensure that businesses across the province have the opportunity to provide their input.

Parliament will resume on Monday, October 4, and will likely finalized the schedule and submissions deadline for the pre-budget consultations. Due to this timing the survey will end on **Friday, October 8, 2004**.

If you have any technical questions, please contact our Webmaster, Elizabeth Lopez at [webmaster@occ.on.ca](mailto:webmaster@occ.on.ca).

Your feedback is appreciated.

## **OCC President "Thinks Outside the Box" in Address to Empire Club of Canada**

Sustainability of health care, cost of border delays, and over-due tax reform, were just a few of the key areas that OCC President and CEO, Len Crispino, addressed in his speech to an audience of over 200 people at the Empire Club of Canada on September 28. The complete speech can be found on the OCC website at [www.occ.on.ca](http://www.occ.on.ca).

Mr. Crispino spoke about the importance of recognizing that no one group has the solutions to making Ontario a more prosperous province. That is why the OCC is spearheading a new initiative called the Ontario Economic Summit (OES). Bringing together four groups, business, labour, academia and the government, the selected participants will discuss and debate key issues affecting the province, but most importantly, will identify key actionable solutions to drive the economy forward.

Among Ontario's leaders attending the Summit are: Bank of Canada Governor David Dodge, CAW President Buzz Hargrove, former U.S. Ambassador to Canada Gordon Giffin, General Motors of Canada Limited President Michael Grimaldi, Dean of the Rotman School of Management Roger Martin, Premier Dalton McGuinty, Michael Raynor, Director, Deloitte Research and author of The Innovator's Solution, TD Bank Financial Group Senior Vice-President, Chief Economist Don Drummond, and Lockheed Martin Corporation Americas Region President, Ron Covais.

The OES provides the framework to think outside of the box, which Mr. Crispino spoke about very earnestly. Openly debating issues such as innovative health care reforms must occur, especially as a

collective group, and without persecution. In addition to health care, the Summit will also address key issues such as competitiveness, skills development, infrastructure and innovation, and how they relate to each of its three themes, Ontario's Economy, Ontario-US Relations, and Ontario-Global relations.

The OES is taking place this week at Niagara-on-the-Lake. Look for updates post-summit in the next few issues of the Legislative Watch.

### **Special TD Report for the OES Released**

A new report entitled *Ontario: The Land of Opportunity*, was released on September 28. The report identifies ten key challenges currently facing the province. It was prepared specifically for the Ontario Economic Summit by TD Economics. It can be found both on the OCC website at [www.occ.on.ca](http://www.occ.on.ca) and on the TD website [www.td.com/economics](http://www.td.com/economics).

### **OCC Submission on Mandatory Retirement**

With the help of its members, the OCC prepared a submission on the government's proposal to end mandatory retirement in Ontario.

The McGuinty government has been holding consultations on this issue since September. Its discussion paper, *Providing Choice: A Consultation Paper On Ending Mandatory Retirement*, was released by the Ministry of Labour in August, and cited changing demographics as one of the key drivers to its proposal to end mandatory retirement in Ontario. The paper was seeking input on the various issues surrounding this topic, including economic, labour market, employment, pension and benefits, social and human rights and occupational and sector specific issues.

The OCC organized its submission based on these issues and sought input from its members in a member survey that was conducted between September 7-14, 2004, and received a total of 648 responses. Key highlights from the survey can be found as an appendix to the submission, which can be found on [www.occ.on.ca](http://www.occ.on.ca).

The majority of respondents felt that if an individual is physically and mentally able to work beyond the age of 65 then it should be the decision of the employee and employer, not the government. The primary concern among survey respondents are the unknown affects ending mandatory retirement would have on their workplace, and primarily on their pension and/or benefit plans. That is why the OCC strongly encourages the government to consider an appropriate legislated exemption under the *Human Rights Code*, the *Employment Standards Act, 2000*, and the *Pension Benefits Act* that will allow benefit plans to continue to use age 65 to determine coverage and cessation of coverage, benefit levels and premiums.

Following the public consultations, which ended on September 29 in Windsor, the McGuinty Government intends to introduce legislation to end mandatory retirement, likely sometime in the winter. For more information on this proposal please visit the Ministry of Labour's website at [www.gov.on.ca/LAB](http://www.gov.on.ca/LAB).

## **Premier McGuinty Keynote for OBAA Gala Dinner**

This year's Outstanding Business Achievement Awards (OBAA) should be the best ever. It will take place on **November 10, 2004** at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre in Toronto. The Honourable **Dalton McGuinty**, MPP, Premier of Ontario, will be the keynote speaker at this year's Gala Dinner.

Tables of ten are available to corporate members for \$3,500. 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](mailto:colleenmacintyre@occ.on.ca) or by telephone at (416) 482-5222, extension 222.

## **OCC Career Opportunity: Research Assistant**

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce is currently seeking an experienced Research Assistant to contribute to the activities of its Policy Department. The successful candidate must possess superior research and writing skills, strong organizational skills, have knowledge of Ontario's political structure, and have a keen interest in policy development.

The Research Assistant will provide research and administrative support to each of the six committees of the OCC: Finance and Taxation, Transportation and Infrastructure, Education, Health Policy, Energy, and Border and Trade Development.

A complete job description can be found on the OCC's website at [www.occ.on.ca/ResearchAssistant\\_JobOpportunity.pdf](http://www.occ.on.ca/ResearchAssistant_JobOpportunity.pdf).

## **Upcoming Events**

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

- 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
- CEO AGM, November 4-5
- Outstanding Business Achievement Awards (OBAA) Gala Dinner, November 10
- Governing Council, November 19

➤ **Speech from the Throne**

Governor-General Adrienne Clarkson will deliver the Speech from the Throne on Tuesday, October 5, 2004, at 3:00pm, to begin the first session of the 38<sup>th</sup> Parliament. The Speech will be available at [www.pm.gc.ca](http://www.pm.gc.ca).

➤ **Post-Secondary Review**

Bob Rae's Review on higher education issues in Ontario released a Discussion Paper on Friday, October 1, it is available from [www.raereview.on.ca](http://www.raereview.on.ca). Public consultations will begin October 4. For more information see above article.

➤ **Protected Areas Legislation Review**

The Ontario Government is reviewing, for the first time in 50 years, the laws that govern the province's provincial parks, conservation reserves and wilderness areas. A Discussion Paper has been released, a survey launched, and public information sessions will be held until October 13 across Ontario. Visit [www.ontarioparks.com/english/legislative.html](http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/legislative.html), or call (705) 755-1700 for more information.

➤ **Electricity Regulations**

The Ministry of Energy has posted the first set of consultations materials related to regulations which are proposed to be made under Bill 100, *Electricity Restructuring Act, 2004*, should it be passed by the Legislature. The Ministry invites comments on the materials which can be found at [www.energy.gov.on.ca/index.cfm?fuseaction=electricity.regulations](http://www.energy.gov.on.ca/index.cfm?fuseaction=electricity.regulations) for review and discussion.

➤ **Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs**

The Committee intends to submit its Final Report on its review of the Securities Act, and specifically the recommendations as set out in the *Five-Year Review Committee Final Report: Reviewing the Securities Act (Ontario)*, to the Legislative Assembly on our before Monday, October 18, 2004.

Legislative

