

OCC Board Approves a Standing Borders and Trade Development Committee

Recognizing the particular impact that border delays have on our members, the OCC created a Borders Task Force (BTF) in May, 2003 to review Canada-U.S trade and security issues.

With over \$1 billion in trade crossing the Canada-U.S. border daily, businesses in Ontario must be able to rely on border points that are accessible, reliable, efficient and safe. Without that assurance, the very livelihood of the Province of Ontario is at extraordinary risk.

On February 5, 2004, the OCC Board of Directors approved the resolution to establish the BTF as a permanent standing OCC committee.

It was also agreed to rename and designate the committee as the Borders and Trade Development Committee.

The Borders Task Force developed a report for the OCC Governing Councilors at the end of last year. A copy of the report will be available on the website shortly.

The report outlines a number of recommendations and key action items for the government to focus on in order to fulfill the task force's goal of ensuring the efficient, timely and secure movement of goods and people between Canada and the United States.

The committee will continue to review these issues and seek to carry out the action items proposed in the report.

On February 5, the report was sent to key members of parliament at each of the three levels of government, federal, provincial and municipal.

OCC Welcomes New Corporate Members

The OCC is pleased to announce the addition of three new corporate members. This week the Hitachi and Placer Dome Canada. Hitachi acts from a corporate philosophy of contributing to society through technology. Placer Dome is the sixth largest gold mining company in the world.

Hotel du Fort Offers a Special Rate for OCC Members

Dear OCC Members:

Hotel du Fort, Montreal's four star executive, boutique hotel is truly a rare find!

We are situated in the downtown area, on Fort Street and Ste-Catherine Street, with direct access to the expressways. We, at Hotel du Fort, have just completed extensive renovations and have tastefully redecorated all guest rooms, suites and boardrooms, in a palette of warm, soothing earth tones.

To experience our new look, we would like to offer a very special OCC rate of \$135.00 - single / double occupancy and \$150.00 per

suite single / double occupancy, based on availability. To obtain these rates, please mention the OCC promotion upon reservation. To reserve your room please contact our reservations department at 1-800-565-6333 or reserve@hoteldufort.com.

To receive our brochure and your OCC member discount card, please contact Alan Jacobs at alan@hoteldufort.com.

Sincerely,

Alan Jacobs
Toronto Sales Manager
www.hoteldufort.com

Pre-Budget Hearings Underway

The 2004 Provincial Pre-Budget consultations are underway. The Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs' consultations will end in Kitchener-Waterloo on February 12, 2004.

A copy of the debates that have already taken place are available online: http://www.ontla.on.ca/hansard/committee_debates/38_parl/session1/finance/index.htm.

Those who are not making an oral presentation but wish to provide their comments should send a written submission to the Committee Clerk by 5pm on Friday, February 13, 2004.

In addition to the committee hearings, Minister of Finance Greg Sorbara and Premier Dalton McGuinty, are planning their own set of consultations.

The OCC has completed its annual Pre-Budget Survey. Thank you to all the members who took the time to submit their views. A copy of the survey report will be available next week.

Upcoming Events

Listed below are some upcoming events that may be of interest to local Chambers and Boards:

- **Finance Committee Meeting**, February 12, 2004
- **Borders and Trade Development Committee Meeting**, February 17, 2004
- **Energy Task Force Meeting**, February 18, 2004
- **Education Committee Meeting**, February 19, 2004
- **Health Policy Committee Meeting**, February 19, 2004

For more information on all committees, please contact [Rachel Kagan](mailto:Rachel.Kagan) at (416) 482-5222, ext. 233.