

## OCC Requests Your Feedback for 2004 Provincial Budget

The 2004 Provincial Pre-Budget Survey was sent to chamber and board members this week. Please take a few moments to complete the survey which can also be found on our website at [www.occ.on.ca](http://www.occ.on.ca). The purpose is to identify finance and tax issues that are important to chamber members.

The OCC also plans to use the preliminary results of the survey in our presentation to the Queen's Park Liaison Forum members on January 30, 2004. Chamber and board members interested in attending the next QPLF session on the Ontario economy should contact Erin Ashton at [erinashton@occ.on.ca](mailto:erinashton@occ.on.ca) or at (416) 482-5222 ext. 222.

The OCC will use the results of this survey to develop its 2004 Provincial Pre-Budget Submission and prioritize areas of focus to assist in the development of policy positions. Once the final results are submitted and analyzed, the OCC will

develop a substantive Pre-Budget Submission for the Minister of Finance, The Honourable Greg Sorbara, as he prepares the 2004 Ontario Budget, expected to be delivered in early spring.

Due to the timing of pre-budget consultations the survey will end on Thursday, January 29, 2004 at 12:00pm. 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 the 2004 Budget. The survey report and raw data results will be available in early February.

We thank the many Chambers and Boards who have already submitted their results. Please take a few moments to complete our Pre-Budget Survey available on our website. If you have any technical questions, please contact our Webmaster at [elizabethlopez@occ.on.ca](mailto:elizabethlopez@occ.on.ca).

## OCC Begins Gearing Up for 2004 Annual General Meeting

Please mark your calendar for the OCC's Annual General Meeting and Convention, which will take place this year from **April 30 - May 2, 2004**, in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

We are pleased to have the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce host this year's 92<sup>nd</sup> AGM & Convention.

In cooperation with the Thunder Bay Chamber, WestJet Airlines is offering OCC members a 10% discount off their best available fare to Thunder Bay at the time of the booking (excluding seat sales), for AGM attendees. WestJet flies daily out of John C. Munro Hamilton International Airport and Toronto Pearson International Airport,

The convention will take place at the Valhalla Inn, Thunder Bay. The official ceremonies are scheduled to begin at

2:00pm on Friday April 30th followed by the Annual General Meeting.

The program will be full of opportunities for delegates to network and socialize with other chamber leaders and to engage in policy making processes. The program will also feature addresses from key provincial political and business leaders.

Complete details and registration forms will be forwarded shortly. Your participation is important as it ensures that the policies adopted by the OCC represent the consensus views of the membership. We look forward to seeing you in Thunder Bay.

For more information on this year's AGM, please contact Erin Ashton at [erinashton@occ.on.ca](mailto:erinashton@occ.on.ca) or at (416) 482-5222, extension 222.

## New \$100 Bill and Chamber Resource

Canada's new one-hundred dollar bill will be unveiled in Halifax on January 28, 2004 and will be issued in the rest of the country starting in March.

The new bank note features enhanced security or anti-counterfeiting features as well as images depicting the theme of exploration and innovation.

The Bank of Canada ([www.bankofcanada.ca](http://www.bankofcanada.ca)) is a great resource for local chambers and boards. They offer a number of materials and services for use by chambers including educational tools such as posters, leaflets, stickers, and videos. Chambers can also use articles from the Bank in newsletters or other publications and provides speakers for chamber events, meetings and conferences.

Chamber members interested in any of the above services should contact Mike Stockfish, [stoc@bankofcanada.ca](mailto:stoc@bankofcanada.ca) or Manuel Parreira, [parr@bankofcanada.ca](mailto:parr@bankofcanada.ca).

The OCC strongly encourages chambers to forward this helpful information to their own members.

### Upcoming Events

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

- **Queen's Park Liaison Forum**, January 30, 2004
- **OCC Board of Directors Meeting**, February 5, 2004
- **Education Committee Meeting**, February 5, 2004
- **Finance & Tax Committee Meeting**, February 12, 2004

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