

Last Chance to Contribute to the OCC's 2004 Provincial Pre-Budget Submission

On Thursday, January 29, 2004 the OCC will conclude its annual Pre-Budget Survey.

If you have not already done so, we strongly encourage members to contribute to the OCC's 2004 Provincial Pre-Budget Submission.

Please take a few moments to complete the Pre-Budget survey that was sent to you last week. It can also be found on our website at www.occ.on.ca.

Members are encouraged to complete the survey and to **PLEASE** forward it to their own members in order to increase the scope of the results.

We appreciate the many Chambers and Boards who have already submitted their views on pre-budget issues.

Once the final results are submitted and analyzed, the OCC will develop a more substantive Pre-Budget Submission for the

Minister of Finance, Greg Sorbara, as he prepares the 2004 Ontario Budget, expected to be delivered in early spring.

The OCC is meeting with Minister Sorbara next week to provide preliminary results from the survey, in part, and to discuss other finance and taxation issues.

If you have not received the survey, or have any technical questions, please contact our Webmaster at elizabethlopez@occ.on.ca.

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce appreciates all the feedback received from our members through the 2004 Pre-Budget Survey.

Thank you. Your views will aid your Chamber in developing significant recommendations to the Ontario government.

Legislative Updates

Bill 31: Protection of Health Information

Public hearings will be held starting the week of January 26th. The deadline for written submissions is on February 6, 2004. Background information is available on the Ministry of Health's website at www.health.gov.on.ca. To provide input for the OCC's submission please provide your comments to [Rachel Kagan](mailto:Rachel.Kagan) as soon as possible.

Labour

On January 19th the Ministry of Labour announced plans to end the 60-hour work week. The news release, discussion paper and backgrounder can all be found on the Ministry's website at <http://www.gov.on.ca/LAB/english/>. To provide input for the OCC's submission please forward your viewpoints to [Stuart Johnston](mailto:Stuart.Johnston) no later than February 13, 2004.

Pre-Budget Consultations

The Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs will be holding its annual pre-budget public hearings across the province starting January 26th. The deadline for oral presentations has passed but those interested in commenting may send written submissions to the Clerk, Katch Koch, by February 13, 2004. *Don't forget to provide your input to the OCC through it's annual pre-budget survey, which can be found at www.occ.on.ca.*

Infectious Diseases: What Businesses in Ontario Need to Know

In April 2003, the OCC survey on the impact of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) on businesses, revealed that almost 80 per cent of respondents did not have a contingency plan in place to deal with SARS.

In response, the OCC Health Policy Committee compiled a brief guide for businesses in Ontario which provides information on managing infectious diseases in the workplace.

The OCC is in the process of distributing complimentary copies of the brochure, [Infectious Diseases: What Businesses in Ontario Need to Know](#).

The number of brochures being sent has been calculated based on your affiliate membership so that you may distribute

enough copies to each of your members.

As a member of the OCC, you have an important responsibility to ensure that your members are made aware of this valuable information and receive copies of the brochure.

Please post the brochure in your office, include it in your member publications or other related correspondence and communications efforts.

We encourage you to consider developing a local action plan including holding a launch in your region following our press conference, which we are currently organizing.

Your involvement is key to the success of this initiative.

Queen's Park Liaison Forum

The Ontario Economy

Date: January 30, 2004
Location: Ontario Investment Service, Toronto
Time: 10:00am – 1:00pm
Speakers: **Phil Howell**, ADM & Chief Economist, Ministry of Finance
Derek Holt, Assistant Chief Economist, RBC
Stuart Johnston, VP Policy, OCC
Contact: [Erin Ashton](mailto:Erin.Ashton), Events Coordinator, OCC, (416) 482-5222, ext. 222, by Monday.