

Power Out? OCC Releases Energy Savings Kit

Earlier this week, the OCC released the "Power Out? What Businesses and Home Owners in Ontario Need to Know" energy savings kit brochure.

In response to the August 2003 power failure, the OCC Energy Task Force compiled this brief guide of important information to help individuals and businesses conserve energy and plan for any future power interruptions.

The brochure was developed following a survey of the OCC membership which measured the impacts of the power failure on Ontario businesses. When respondents were asked whether or not their business was prepared to deal with future power outages, the majority (65%) answered "no" to having a contingency plan in place to deal with a future energy crisis.

The brochure contains valuable information and is available on the OCC website at

www.occ.on.ca as a downloadable PDF file. It includes information on the Ontario Energy Board Amendment Act (Electricity Pricing) as well as tips on ways that individuals and businesses can conserve energy. For instance, many businesses are unaware that laptop computers can save energy as they use up to 40 per cent less energy than desktop models. At an average of 45 watts, they consume less energy than a light bulb. Similarly, computers should be set to enter into a 'sleep mode' when not active for a period of several minutes.

If you have not already done so, please forward the link to the brochure to your members. You could also consider printing double-sided copies and including them in your mailings or other member publications.

Printing instructions can be found on the OCC website.

OBAC Update with Minister of Finance

On Tuesday, March 9th, Ontario Business Advisory Council (OBAC) members met with Minister of Finance, Greg Sorbara. This kicked off the 2004 OBAC season with a healthy discussion on Ontario's economy. The Minister has been engaged in one of the most extensive pre-budget consultations across the province since the end of January.

OBAC provides an in-camera forum for senior business leaders to speak candidly and directly with senior political leaders. It also provides a stimulating atmosphere in which senior executives are able to network and consult with peers about concerns and issues affecting other industries.

If you think any of your members would be interested in becoming an OBAC member please contact [Scott McCammon](mailto:Scott.McCammon@occ.on.ca).

Only One Week Left to Submit Resolutions for the 2004 AGM

Attention Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade, you have only one week left to submit your policy resolutions for the quickly approaching Annual General Meeting & Convention, being held in Thunder Bay from April 30 to May 2, 2004.

The deadline for submitting resolutions is **Friday, March 19, 2004 by 5:00pm**. Remember, resolutions must be provincial in scope, one that does not align one industry against another, and on the legislative agenda of the provincial government or of considerable concern to a majority of OCC members. Areas of focus include, finance, taxation, transportation, infrastructure, border crossings, trade, health care, education and training, and energy issues.

The format of a resolution consists of four main parts, and they are: (1) Title - which reflects the nature of the resolution; (2)

Issue - a brief summary of the resolution; (3) Background - a detailed outline of the issue and an assessment of available policy options; and (4) Recommendations - which list the preferred policy options for the provincial government to follow.

Resolution procedures and a template can be found on the OCC website at www.occ.on.ca.

The core business of the OCC is policy development and advocacy on the behalf of Ontario's business community. Contributing to policy development by submitting your resolutions enables the OCC to advocate policies under provincial jurisdiction that can help local communities prosper.

If you have any questions regarding policy resolutions please contact [Stuart Johnston](mailto:Stuart.Johnston@occ.on.ca).

Upcoming Events

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

- **Resolutions Deadline**, March 19, 2004
- **Borders & Trade Development Committee Meeting**, March 24, 2004
- **Education Committee Meeting**, April 1, 2004
- **Health Committee Meeting**, April 6, 2004
- **Transportation Committee Meeting**, April 7, 2004
- **Finance Committee Meeting**, April 8, 2004
- **Energy Task Force Meeting**, April 15, 2004
- **Queen's Park Liaison Forum**, April 16, 2004

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