

Special Offer for OCC Members from Ceridian

One of the OCC's new corporate members, **Ceridian Canada Ltd.**, is offering all OCC members a special discount on its payroll processing services. Ceridian is a leader in managed business solutions for human resource and employee effectiveness services to employers of all sizes in the United States, Canada and Europe. In the U.S., Ceridian serves more than 20 million employees, or 18 percent of the workforce.

Ceridian Canada Ltd. serves over 17 percent or about 2.6 million employees; and in the United Kingdom, Ceridian serves about 7 percent of the workforce.

Ceridian provides a suite of business solutions for HRMS, payroll, tax filing, application outsourcing, time and labor management, benefits administration, employee effectiveness services, benefits enrollment, COBRA and 401(k) administration.

The Source 500 HR information system and follow-on integrated web-enabled solution, eSource, give Ceridian's customers integrated payroll and human resource solutions. Ceridian also serves smaller businesses with a fast, friendly, Internet-based human resource solution called Powerpay.com.

For more information on this special offer visit the member's area of the OCC web site and click on Member Discounts and the Powerpay Suite link.

It's Time to Think of Your OBAA Nominations

The **OCC's Outstanding Business Achievement Awards** annual gala event is not scheduled until the warm days of summer have turned into the cool days of fall, but there's no time like the present to submit your nominees for this year's event.

The OBAA's recognize up to four Ontario companies which have demonstrated business excellence, and are judged by a broad set of criteria. The achievements recognized in honouring these companies can include sales and export growth, increased employment, product innovation, technological advancements, and general entrepreneurial skill.

In addition to the general awards for excellence the OCC is introducing two new awards this year. The **Community Export Development Award** recognizes a community – as represented by a chamber of commerce, board of trade, or business development organization – that has successfully created an environment which fosters business and export development, and the **Bell Innovation Technology Award**, which recognizes Ontario businesses that have demonstrated excellence in innovation, adaptability, and the successful application of new technology to the development and growth of their products and/or services.

For more information on the nomination process on these awards plus the Young Entrepreneur's Award and the Richard A. Dolphin Community Service Award - all of which will be presented at the OBAA gala event on October 16th - check the OCC web site under Events.

Welcome New OCC Corporate Member

- Janes Family Foods Ltd.

Event Marketing Fund Available For Ontario Communities

The Provincial government has launched a \$5-million event marketing and development fund designed to assist Ontario communities revitalize their tourism industries which have been beset by the triple whammy of SARS, the Iraq war and the surging Canadian dollar.

The fund will be available to support marketing campaigns aimed at boosting attendance at events and festivals and increasing visitor spending in communities across the province.

Eligible applicants include event and festival organizers and partnerships of individuals, businesses, community organizations, event organizers and municipalities. More information about the fund, including guidelines and application forms, is available at www.tourismpartners.com.

Upcoming Events

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

- **Finance & Taxation Committee Meeting**, July 10, 2003
- **Health Policy Committee Meeting**, July 17, 2003
- **Education Committee Meeting**, August 7, 2003
- **Finance & Taxation Committee Meeting**, August 14, 2003
- **Energy Task Force Meeting**, August 21, 2003
- **Health Policy Committee Meeting**, August 21, 2003

For more information on all committees, please contact [Atul Sharma](mailto:Atul.Sharma@occ.on.ca) at (416) 482-5222, ext. 235.

Liberals Still Topping Pre-Election Polls

Tory insiders at Queen's Park have been suggesting recently that the Eves government is gaining ground against the front running Liberals, but a recent poll done by Oracle Research suggests otherwise.

The latest survey results found the Liberals to be way out front with 49 per cent support among decided voters, with the Tories backed by just 30 per cent.

The biggest surprise was the 19 per cent support rung up by the NDP – their highest level in almost a decade. Curiously, the poll which was conducted in late June did bring some good news for the Premier with 29 per cent choosing him as the most trustworthy party leader compared to 21 per cent who picked Liberal leader Dalton McGuinty and 14 per cent for NDP leader Howard Hampton.

AMCHAM Gets Some Attention and Some Heat

Florida Governor **Jeb Bush** received considerable attention when he made his two day visit to Toronto earlier this week, where he was drumming up tourism business for the State. He also spent some time with the Premier and went out of his way to say complimentary things about Ontario and its handling of the SARS crisis.

The attention was less flattering when he attended the launch of the newly established **American Chamber of Commerce** in Canada. Several organizations made a point of distancing themselves from the new group, known as AMCHAM Canada including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which claimed no affiliation with the new group, and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce which sent a sharply worded message to its membership that said the new organization is "in no way affiliated with nor is it endorsed by the Canadian Chamber or the U.S. Chamber."

OCC Business Survey Program Releases Economic Survey Results

The most recent survey from the OCC's Business Survey program was released on Thursday, July 10th and showed a downward trend in terms of economic optimism for the province for the remainder of this year.

Only 18 per cent of respondents said they expect a "somewhat stronger" economy for 2003 compared to 31 per cent who felt the same way in the OCC's pre-budget survey in February of this year. Interestingly though, there was heightened optimism for 2004 with 47 per cent who expected that the Ontario economy would perform "much stronger" or "somewhat stronger" next year.

OCC President and CEO Len Crispino appeared on Report on Business-TV to discuss the survey results, and the story was also carried by a number of regional radio stations. Complete results of the survey are available on the OCC web site.

Janet Ecker to Meet With OBAC

The **Ontario Business Advisory Council (OBAC)** will have an opportunity to meet with Finance Minister **Janet Ecker** on July 29th.

The meeting with Minister Ecker is the seventh in the OBAC series this year and comes at a timely moment for Ontario businesses in light of the current economic climate.

Keep Those OBAA Nominations Coming

There's still some time left to submit your nominees for this year's **Outstanding Business Achievement Awards**, but there's also no time like the present to do so before things get lost in the shuffle of summer vacations and other distractions.

Nomination information for the **October 16th** gala event is available on the OCC web site or you can contact Regan Clarke at (416) 482-5222, ext. 222 or reganclarke@occ.on.ca.

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- **Health Policy Committee Meeting**, July 17, 2003
- **OBAC featuring Finance Minister Janet Ecker**, July 29, 2003
- **Education Committee Meeting**, August 7, 2003
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OCC Letter to Ontario Energy Board

Following a recommendation from the OCC's Energy Committee, OCC President Len Crispino has sent a letter to **Paul Pudge, Board Secretary** at the **Ontario Energy Board** recommending that it amend the consumer security deposit policies of electric Local Distribution Companies (LDCs). The complete letter can be found on the OCC's web site but in general terms the OCC's position is that the current policy of some LDCs to demand a blanket and upfront security deposit from all their customers, regardless of their payment history and financial standing, is utterly unfair. The OCC further recommends the adoption of a firm, consistent and fair policy by all LDCs, and one that takes into account the payment history of a firm when determining the need for a security deposit.

Discounted Business Travel Opportunity

While the Legislative Watch doesn't intend to become a clearing house for special offers and deals, occasionally one of interest comes along that we feel is worth mentioning. A company called **Sensors Quality Management Inc.**, is looking for business travelers who would welcome a 50 per cent refund on their travel costs. The company is looking for travelers to provide evaluations on service and other aspects of their trip on selected Via Rail journeys such as Toronto-Ottawa or Toronto-Sarnia. Space doesn't permit us to provide more details, but you can check it out by visiting the company Web site at www.sqm.ca.

For the time being the opportunity only exists for rail travel, but will eventually include air and bus travel. It may not be suitable for everyone, but in these days of tight travel budgets it might appeal to some.

Recruits Needed for Team Ontario

The OCC is getting ready to recruit **Team Ontario** for The Canadian Chamber of Commerce's annual policy convention and AGM, which is being held in Quebec City this September.

Team Ontario coordinates responses and provides recommendations to each of the proposed resolutions on an Ontario-wide basis. The OCC's policy resolutions process will consist of a thorough review of all of the proposed resolutions so that a united consensus is demonstrated at the federal level. Once the Canadian Chamber releases the proposed policy resolutions, we will develop a conference call meeting schedule to review them. Local chambers and boards are encouraged to participate in Team Ontario. If you, or a member of your chamber or board, is interested in participating, please contact rachelkagan@occ.on.ca or 416 482-5222, ext. 233.

OBAA Nominations Reminder

We cannot remind you too many times about the fast approaching deadline for nominations for this year's **Outstanding Business Achievement Awards (OBAA)** set for **October 16** at the **Metro Toronto Convention Center**.

All the details for nominations are available on the OCC Web site, so don't miss a chance to nominate a deserving business from your region. And while you're on the site, you can also take the opportunity to order your table or individual tickets for the gala event.

Welcome New OCC Corporate Members

- Enchanted Limousines
- Halton Region

Economic Update Survey Receives Coverage

The OCC's recently completed **Ontario Economic Update Survey** received considerable coverage across Ontario, including an interview with OCC President Len Crispino on Report on Business Television.

The full survey results are available on the OCC web site, and by early next week OCC member chambers will be able to see the regional breakout of the respondents chamber by chamber.

This is a new feature of the Ontario Business Survey Program, and will provide individual chambers with a snapshot of how its members responded.

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Letter to Premier Eves

Earlier this week the OCC delivered a letter to **Premier Eves** voicing its support of the now delayed **Mid-Peninsula Transit Corridor (MPC)** and urged public consultations with stakeholders to resolve the issue.

The OCC also urged the government to establish a regional transportation authority in the GTA in order to more fully address the broader transportation issues that impact business in the province.

A full text of the letter is available on the OCC Web site. The OCC's President and CEO **Len Crispino** and Vice President Policy Development **Atul Sharma** also met with Minister of Transportation **Frank Klees** this week to discuss these and other related issues, including an update on the OCC's Borders Task Force.

New OCC Board Member

The OCC is pleased to welcome **Carol Felepchuk** as its newest member of the Board of Directors.

Carol is a Government Programs Executive at **IBM Canada Ltd.**, where she is responsible for taking forward and resolving public policy issues that affect the information technology sector and its customers.

She has over 25 years of experience in the information technology sector, and previously worked in the tax field for 13 years, specializing in issues related to software and electronic commerce.

Carol participated as a member of the OECD's Technical Advisory Group on income characterization issues arising from the use of electronic commerce, and is presently a member of their Technical Advisory Group.

In addition she is a member of the CCRA Minister's Advisory Committee and their International Tax Advisory Group and participates in the Tax and Public Policy Committees of many associations, including ITAC, CME, Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Ontario Chamber of Commerce, CompTIA, and is also a member and officer of Tax Executives Institute, Toronto Chapter, and a Director of York Technology Association.

All Star SARS Recovery Team

Premier Eves announced an all star team of players to guide the provinces' SARS economic recovery efforts earlier this week, with former CEO of the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation, **Ron Barbaro**, appointed team captain.

Joining Mr. Barbaro in support of the effort will be former Blue Jays President **Paul Beeston**, former lieutenant-governor **Hilary Weston**, former McDonalds CEO **George Cohon**, and former TD Bank CEO and current Queen's chancellor **Charles Baillie**.

OBAA Nominations and Tickets

Nominations continue to roll in for this October's annual **Outstanding Business Achievement Awards (OBAA)** and the OCC is expecting an outstanding selection of nominees from all parts of the province.

Of particular interest this year are the two new categories, the **Bell Canada Award for Technological Innovation** and the **Community Export Development Award**, for which we will be announcing a new sponsor very shortly.

We have also taken the step of extending the deadline for nominations from July 31 to August 15 to accommodate busy summer schedules.

Ticket sales for the event are also moving briskly so we are encouraging you to reserve early for what promises to be a sell-out capacity at the Metro Toronto Convention Center.

You still have time to deal with both, so check the OCC Web site for nomination details and contact **Regan Clarke** at 416 482-5222 ext. 222 or reganclarke@occ.on.ca to order your tickets.

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