

Connections ... get plugged into your network



Ontario Chamber executives and volunteers, Queen's Park Advocacy Day, Feb. 2018

May 2018

June 1 is fast approaching. Do you know where your resos are?

Some of you will be at AGMs in the coming days but please remember that June 1 is the deadline for resolutions to be submitted through our process. No extensions will be granted and, no, this is not an earlier date than years past.

Don't forget that the submission process has gone online this year and this is the only way we will accept resos for the 2018 policy debates.

There are two things you should know about the online process: questions and responses.

The link for the submissions has a toggle tab which allows you to toggle between a submission form where you will submit your reso content (title, background, etc.) and a form where you can see what has been submitted by others (these cannot be modified by you - they are in a view only mode). The ability to see what has been submitted already should lessen the amount of duplication and increase the opportunity for collaboration.

To submit use the toggle link at the top marked "questions" and to see the resos already submitted use the toggle link indicated as "responses". The submission link is [here](#).

Regulatory efficiency in Canada

Over time, Canada's regulatory environment has become a collection of complicated, overlapping and inefficient sets of rules. While Canada's overall ranking in the World Economic Forum's 2015-2016 *Global Competitiveness Report* is a respectable 13 of 140 countries, in the sub-ranking on the burden of government regulation, Canada ranks 37. This regulatory burden makes Canada a less desirable destination to start or grow a business.

Shortly, we will be launching a major report that looks at areas where Canada's regulatory environment is failing and demonstrates the need for a system that is more open, transparent, predictable and efficient. We will advance the idea that all regulators have economic mandates and that a more dynamic regulatory environment can significantly improve Canadian business competitiveness.

We'll be looking for your support and participation as we grow the awareness of the report's findings and recommendations. We're sure that you will find a regulatory burden that you can "adopt" and that will resonate in your community and/or region. Some of the sectors to be covered will include pharma, electricity and oil.

To give you a sneak peek and encourage you to jump on board our advocacy plans, we are holding two teleconference calls with the network to hear from Ryan Greer, our report author and expert on regulatory efficiency.

The calls are scheduled for May 24 at 1PM and May 29 at 1PM.

You must [register](#) (select the date you want) for the calls to receive call-in details.

A toolkit will be made available to chambers pre-launch. This will include an embargoed copy of the report, letters to MPs and more. Please check your in-boxes for this.

TMX: Urgent for Canada

Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain Expansion project was approved after undergoing a rigorous, scientifically sound review process that involved consultations with thousands of people and organizations. However, due to hurdles the project has faced from the B.C. government's opposition, Kinder Morgan has halted all non-essential spending on the project and has given a deadline of May 31 for governments to provide assurances that the project can move forward.

This \$7.4-billion project is the solution to allow one of our most valuable natural resources to reach international markets and for Canada to obtain fair price for its product. It will also create tens of thousands of jobs and generate millions of dollars for the economy. If the company chooses to not go forward with the project, it would be not only disastrous for Canada, but would send a terrible signal to investors at home and abroad.

On May 8, we filed a submission with the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications in support of *Bill S-245: An Act to declare the Trans Mountain Pipeline Project and related works to be for the general advantage of Canada*.

As indicated earlier this week in an e-mail to you, we will be continuing our advocacy efforts on May 23, when we join with provincial chambers and association and corporate stakeholders to participate in a series of meetings on Parliament Hill. These meetings will demonstrate to elected officials the broad range of Canadians—and Canadian businesses—who support this project and are willing to take the necessary steps to have it built.

Deadline extended to June 1: Indigenous Engagement Survey

If you have the time, please take the [survey](#) and, even better,

send to your members for their input.
You can access the survey at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IndigenEngagement>.

Ottawa Hill Day

We're holding a Hill lobbying day on October 23. Earlier this spring a number of you expressed interest in this activity. We realize that week is a busy one in terms of municipal politics so you may not all be able to come.

The event will start with an evening reception on October 22 to which all MPs and senators will be invited. The Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the NDP will be invited to speak.

On October 23, we'll start with a breakfast for all participants after which we will break up into groups for meetings. We'll wrap up by 3 PM so those coming from out of town can start making their way home.

We'll be organizing those attending into the following theme-based groups:

- Climate Policy & Resource Sector Competitiveness
- Economic Capacity Building for Indigenous Peoples
- Innovation
- Trade & Transportation Infrastructure
- Agile Workforce Strategies
- Tax Competitiveness

We have booked a block of rooms at the Chateau Laurier (1 Rideau Street) where our reception, kick-off breakfast and most meetings will be held. You may reserve a room at the block rate of \$255/night at <https://book.passkey.com/go/ccocfall2018>; this rate is available until September 24.

Please confirm (or reconfirm) your interest in attending this event – **by June 30** – with [Jennifer Hagen](#) if you wish/are able to participate. Please indicate in which group(s) you'd like to be included.

New Home and a New Look

New Home

On June 1, our Ottawa office is moving. Our new address will be 1700 – 275 Slater Street, Ottawa, ON K1P 5H9. Please be sure to update your database.

We are excited by our move because our new location will allow us to create an open, bright and healthy environment that will foster collaboration and communication while also providing adequate quiet rooms and meeting spaces, modernized technology and room for growth.

Additionally, as part of our commitment to diversity and inclusion in the workplace, we have built our office to respect the design priorities reflected in the [Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification](#) program and are in the process of applying for certification. We encourage you to consider making similar changes if you are doing any renovations or considering a move yourself. Click [here](#) to learn more about this program.

New Look

In conjunction with our move, we have also taken the opportunity to refresh our logo. The new logo will be available in the members-only section of our website for download as of June 1. If you use our logo on your communications materials - website, brochures, letterhead (and as a member why wouldn't you?). Please be sure to update your collateral with our new logo.

One of our priorities is to enhance our corporate reputation, in part by appearing more modern, innovative and approachable. We feel the refreshed version of our logo communicates this sense.

The following changes were made:

- We slightly rounded the centre joint of each "C" within our symbol
- We chose a more modern font—one that complements the curve of the "Cs" within our symbol
- We dropped "The" / "La" from our name

If you need help updating your materials with our new logo, please contact [Michelle Croteau](#).

New chamber leaders across the country

Jason Tereszko, secretary, Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce (ON), almaguinhighlandschamber@gmail.com.

Emily Deane, administrative coordinator, Blue Mountains Chamber of Commerce (ON), info@bluemountainchamber.ca.

Sharon Dahl, secretary, Consort & District Chamber of Commerce (AB), psdahl@xplornet.com

Susan Charnell, president, Greenwood Board of Trade, (BC), susan@capitalproforma.com.

Jill Barrowman, executive director, Kitimat Chamber of Commerce (BC), edirector@kitimat.com.

Donna Earl, office administrator, Meaford Chamber of Commerce (ON), info@meafordchamber.ca.

Gina Ruttan, president, New Hamburg Board of Trade (ON), president@nhbot.ca.

Allan Lafontaine, managing director, Orillia District Chamber of Commerce (ON), manager@orillia.com.

Robin Hester, president, Redwater & District Chamber of Commerce (AB), robin@hesterandhestercpas.com.

Jocelyn Dolman, administrative assistant, Rocky Mountain House & District Chamber of Commerce (AB), admin@rockychamber.org.

Veronica Vinge, executive director, South Okanagan Chamber of Commerce (BC), manager@sochamber.ca.

Jana Thompson, executive director, Revelstoke Chamber of Commerce (BC), BC, executive@revelstokechamber.com

Becky Allen, executive director, Smiths Falls & District Chamber of Commerce (ON), becky.allen@smithsfallschamber.ca.

Stephanie Kutowy, president, Sudbury East Chamber of Commerce (ON), ksheat@tru802.ca.

Hollie Blanchette, president, Valemount & Area Chamber of Commerce (BC), info@valemountchamber.com.

Kim Carroll, executive assistant, Valleyview & District Chamber of Commerce (ON), info@valleyviewchamber.ca.

Dana Severson, executive director, Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce (AB), manager@whitecourtchamber.com

High cost of doing business affecting your members? Check out our MMSPs

Are your members increasingly worried about the costs of doing business? We're pretty sure you're hearing that - cos we are! Two programs offered through our partners at 1800Members could help ease the cost of doing business:

UPS...offers discounts of 40% on shipments within Canada and to worldwide destinations - are you offering your members this opportunity to save money on their day-to-day operations?

Lenovo... receive discounts of up to 30% off the everyday public web price on a wide range of Lenovo products, including laptops, tablets, desktops, workstations, servers, accessories and more! Check out these [member money-saving programs](#) - your members will be glad you did!