

# Connections ... get plugged into your network

Attending our Ottawa Hill Day reception L to R: MP for Guelph, Lloyd Longfield; Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Navdeep Bains, CCC past chair Christiane Bergevin; Chuck Davidson, President & CEO, Manitoba Chambers of Commerce and Rocco Rossi, President & CEO, Ontario Chamber of Commerce



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## Important progress on competitiveness challenges announced in Fall Economic Update

The federal government's Fall Economic Update (FEU), delivered earlier this week, contained a number of important measures to address Canada's competitiveness gap with other countries, but more urgently needs to be done.

Specifically, we welcomed the commitment by Finance Minister Morneau and Treasury Board President Scott Brison to regulatory reform. The announcements reflect some of the core elements of our report *Death by 130,000 Cuts: Improving Canada's Regulatory Competitiveness*, released earlier this year.

We were concerned that the Economic Update lacked any plans to help Canada's struggling energy industry. A full analysis of the FEU was done by our Chief Economist Trevin Stratton; you can read it [here](#).

## Canada Post rotating walkouts

The federal government is considering introducing back-to-work legislation to end five weeks of rotating walkouts by Canada Post employees. If the walkouts have affected your members, [we would like to know](#). If your members would like to tell their MP, they can find their coordinates [here](#).

## Your members can help shape our 10 Ways to Build a Canada that Wins: 2019 Election Edition

We recently released a new platform in partnership with Hill + Knowlton that allows your members to identify the issues that are top of mind for them and should be top of mind in the 2019 election.

With your help, we can build the 2019 election platform. Your members can input their top business issues into the platform so we get a grassroots feel for what's "bugging business" right now.

A reminder was sent to all chambers in the last couple of weeks; if you missed the email, please [advise us](#), and we will send your chamber's unique link and dashboard to you.

## Broadband and chambers in rural and remote areas

As a follow-up to this week's Auditor General's report, we wanted to encourage chambers in our network from rural and remote areas to engage local media and Members of Parliament around the need for a broadband strategy with stable dedicated funding to address gaps in your communities. We will continue to prioritize these issues within our upcoming 2019 election platform and other opportunities, but we believe

most powerful voices will be chambers and business leaders that face day-to-day challenges associated with these gaps. Stories of businesses that are unable to adopt innovative digital tools, connect with their customers and supply chains, will help put a face to the issue.

We have created a template new release for your use as a start. If this is of interest to you and your business community, please be in touch with [Huzaifa Saeed](#).

## Ottawa Hill Day: Building a Canada that Wins

In late October, we held our first (in memory) Hill Day. It included meetings that focused on seven key areas: agile workforce strategies; climate sector policy and resource competitiveness; economic capacity building for Indigenous peoples; innovation; international trade diversification; trade and transportation infrastructure; and tax competitiveness – each one critical in helping Canadian businesses thrive and continue to support strong middle class.

Highlights from our 2018 Ottawa Hill Day:

- 105 total participants including representatives from all provincial chambers and from local chambers. We had representatives from the Greater Sudbury Chamber, the Oakville Chamber, the Fredericton Chamber, The Calgary Chamber, the Hamilton Chamber and the Lethbridge Chamber.
- 29 meetings with Members of Parliament, which includes the involvement of five ministers and four senators.
- Reception speakers including Hon. Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development; Hon. Andrew Scheer, Leader of the Official Opposition; and Jagmeet Singh, Leader of the NDP.
- A kick-off breakfast including a Q&A with Hon. Mary Ng, Minister of Small Business and Export Promotion.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and we will plan another event in the future.

## Navigating Canada's cannabis legalization

The legalization of cannabis for recreational use in Canada has required employers, regardless of the size of the organization or work being performed, to update workplace safety, as well as drug and impairment, policies and procedures.

To better understand this new landscape, we have compiled a list of agencies and contacts that are able to provide guidance for businesses requiring legal expertise. To view the key contacts, click [here](#).

## Chamber staff present to House Trade Committee

Earlier this week, Susanna Cluff-Clyburne, senior director, parliamentary affairs, and Mark Agnew, director, international affairs, appeared before the House of Commons International Trade Committee, which is studying how the government can assist SMEs take advantage of free trade agreements. Their remarks to the committee are available [here](#). Also appearing with us were the CFIB, Forum for International Trade Training, Toronto Region Board of Trade, Jack Mintz, University of Calgary, and the Canadian Association of Mold Makers.

## Chamber Network Committee - up and running

We are pleased to advise that the Chamber Network Committee of the board has been reactivated.

This is great news as the committee will focus on issues that are of importance to the network. Stay tuned.

The committee is made up of chamber representatives from our board, including Lisa Kowalchuk, who represents chamber executives in her capacity as president of the CCEC.

## #338 Voices - postponed until 2019

Earlier this year, we announced our partnership with the Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC). We, like the MHCC, want to raise the awareness of mental health in the workplace.

We are working on an initiative that will raise the awareness in communities across the country; we had planned to launch this fall. Due to a number of extenuating circumstances, this event will be pushed into the new year. Watch for details.

In the meantime, read our November *5 Minutes for Business*, *Mentally Healthy Workplaces: The Best Investment Your Business Can Make*.

## Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) is helping communities share immigration success stories

IRCC is working on an initiative called [Immigration Matters](#) that combines storytelling and facts to dispel common myths about immigrants and refugees and promotes positive engagement between Canadians and newcomers.

IRCC has recently shared the preliminary web pages and stories it has developed at [Canada.ca/immigration-matters](#). On social media, IRCC is using the #ImmigrationMatters hashtag.

On this website, you will also find a great [toolkit](#) that can help tell the stories in your community - including key messages, social media story tips, sample social media posts, event information and more.

With the skills shortages Canada faces in communities large and small, now more than ever, #ImmigrationMatters. We encourage you to share positive stories your chamber or partners have encountered of immigrants who are helping to make their communities better.

Thank you for helping raise awareness about the importance of immigration to Canada's communities! If you have any questions, please reach out to [IRCC.Outreach-Rayonnement.IRCC@cic.gc.ca](mailto:IRCC.Outreach-Rayonnement.IRCC@cic.gc.ca).

## Esso program updates

As you know, we work in partnership with Esso to promote one of the best fuel discount programs for groups.

## Things to consider..

Other fuel stations may advertise a better rate, but often times the pricing is for a limited run—like three months—or is associated with a branded credit card that your member may not want or need.

Costco may have better pricing day-to-day, but you have to be a member of Costco and be near one of its fueling stations, which may not always be as convenient as the Esso/Mobil network of stations across the country.

The program, which can be offered to your members, offers 3.5 cents off the posted price of gas at any Esso and, now, Mobil stations in Canada.

Esso has rebranded a number of Refuel stations and brought the Mobil brand into Canada. This extends the network of stations by about 200 more—that means 200 more for your members to access during their business or personal travel. Exciting news!

But that's not all. Over the summer, Esso also moved away from the Aeroplan rewards program and is now aligned with PC Optimum. This is positive news for both Esso and PC Optimum users.

New collateral for your use is in the works. But as a starting point, **please be aware the Esso micro site address has changed**. If you have the site linked on your website, please update it. The new address is [www.essobusinesscards.ca/chamber](http://www.essobusinesscards.ca/chamber).

**Also note:** Third quarter lists of participants were emailed recently. If you are not aware, Esso sends lists of participants on a quarterly basis that can be used to reinforce membership at your chamber. Use these lists to advise lapsed members that membership does have its privileges. Esso will remove participants if they are not in good standing with a chamber.

## Job postings across the country

- The Columbia Valley Chamber (BC) is looking for an [executive director](#).
- The Lethbridge Chamber (AB) is searching for its next executive director. You'll find the posting [here](#).

## New chamber leaders across the country

**Jennifer Rodney**, membership/operations manager, Bow Valley Chamber of Commerce (AB), [askus@bowvalleychamber.com](mailto:askus@bowvalleychamber.com).

**Kathy Arndt**, manager, Edson & District Chamber of Commerce (AB), [edsonchamber@gmail.com](mailto:edsonchamber@gmail.com).

**Brent Fitzpatrick**, executive director, Humboldt Chamber of Commerce (SK), [executivedirector@humboldtchamber.ca](mailto:executivedirector@humboldtchamber.ca).

**Kelly Smith**, manager, Kenora & District Chamber of Commerce (ON), [manager@kenorachamber.com](mailto:manager@kenorachamber.com).

**Susanne Onciul-Pich**, executive director, Lac La Biche & District Chamber of Commerce (AB), [manager@llbchamber.ca](mailto:manager@llbchamber.ca).

**Renée Comeau**, general manager, Northwest Territories Chamber of Commerce (NT), [admin@nwtchamber.com](mailto:admin@nwtchamber.com).

**Taralyn Golbeck**, director of communications & administration, Saugeen Shores Chamber of Commerce (ON), [taralyngolbeck@saugeenshoreschamber.ca](mailto:taralyngolbeck@saugeenshoreschamber.ca).

## Please note

The elves will be busy in December preparing chamber invoices and will not be doing this newsletter until 2019. Until then, a hearty wish for good health and good cheer over the coming holidays from all of us here at the Canadian Chamber.