



Proposed Changes to Employment Legislation

June 2, 2017

PORT HOPE, ON – The Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce is the Voice of Business for the community and was established in 1874. The Port Hope Chamber actively advocates in the best interest of their members and the business community at large.

The Port Hope Chamber of Commerce is concerned about many of the reforms being proposed by the provincial government to the Labour Relations Act and the Employment Standards Act. The Chamber is concerned about how these changes will affect small businesses and that the changes will make it more difficult for Ontario's smaller employers to afford growing their businesses and increasing their workforce.

Some of the proposed changes include:

- Raising Ontario's general minimum wage to \$14 per hour on January 1, 2018, and then to \$15 on January 1, 2019, followed by annual increases at the rate of inflation;
- Mandating equal pay for part-time, temporary, casual and seasonal employees doing the same job as full-time employees; and equal pay for temporary help agency employees doing the same job as permanent employees at the agencies' client companies;
- Expanding personal emergency leave to include an across-the-board minimum of at least two paid days per year for all workers;
- At least three weeks' vacation after five years with a company;

Chamber President, Jacqueline Pennington indicated there has already been some response from small business owners to the government's announcement. "There is a genuine concern from small businesses about their increasing costs of overhead. Utility costs have sky rocketed and now employment costs will also rise. Sadly, for some being a small business owner in Ontario is becoming unaffordable."

Businesses and Chamber members who are concerned or interested in getting more involved about how the proposed changes will affect their business are encouraged to contact the Port Hope Chamber office.

Chamber CEO Bree Nixon stated "The Port Hope Chamber has an active Policy & Advocacy committee who are currently discussing the issue and how it affects our members. Interested Port Hope business owners and Chamber members are invited to join the discussion."

For more information about the province's proposed changes from the Ministry of Labour visit: https://news.ontario.ca/mol/en/2017/06/ontario-introduces-legislation-to-create-fair-workplaces-better-jobs.html?_ga=2.225218138.1982126315.1496424296-1433360243.1496424296

For more information about the Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce contact:

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