

4.4 Provide appropriate timelines to stakeholders when revising or implementing initiatives that will impact their operations

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The OCC is calling on the newly elected government to provide appropriate timelines to stakeholders when revising or implementing initiatives that will impact their operations.
- In Ontario, unintended consequences from ill-advised government policies have hindered business competitiveness and diminished the province's economic resiliency.
- Greater stakeholder participation within the policy cycle will result in more efficient decision-making and project planning.

The unintended consequences of under-evaluated government policies have hindered business competitiveness and diminished Ontario's economic resiliency, as well as limited the effectiveness of policy and regulation. Due to the short timeline to implementation of Bill 148, the Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, Ontario business faces a \$12 billion economic problem that will put 185,000 jobs at risk.¹

It is clear today that greater stakeholder participation throughout the policy development cycle is necessary in Ontario. In the interest of open government, and to avoid unintended consequences of government action, serious consideration must be given to stakeholder consultation, particularly with respect to timelines and roll-out processes of new policy, regulation and legislation. Government should work towards a closer, more permanent partnership with all stakeholders, including the private sector, academia and civil society organizations, to preempt challenges caused by hasty decision-making.

¹ Canadian Centre for Economic Analysis (CANCEA). *Economic Impact of Bill 148*. 2017. <http://keepontarioworking.ca/updates/kow-releases-final-peer-reviewed-cancea-economic-analysis>