

2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

ONTARIO



About Us

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) is the indispensable partner of business and Canada's largest, most influential provincial chamber. It is an independent, not-for-profit advocacy and member services organization. The OCC has 60,000 members, including large multinational corporations, small-to-medium-sized enterprises, labour unions, postsecondary institutions, non-profit, associations and close to 160 chambers of commerce and boards of trade.

The OCC's mission is to convene, align and advance the interests of its members through principled policy work, value-added business services and broad engagement to drive competitiveness and economic growth in the province.



A Message From the President and CEO

“I am incredibly proud of our network of over 60,000 members across the province for their ongoing leadership in tackling some of our most pressing challenges, including: labour shortages, inflation, supply chain backlogs, and health system vulnerabilities. The initiatives and outcomes outlined in this report are testament to our collective ability to make a meaningful impact on businesses, communities, and the broader economy. Ontario’s future prosperity, competitiveness, and productivity will depend on the actions we continue to take together in the year ahead.”



*Rocco Rossi, President & CEO,
Ontario Chamber of Commerce*



*Don Ludlow, OCC Chair & VP Small Business,
Royal Bank of Canada*

A Message From the Board Chair

“As the Chair of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, I have witnessed the incredible capabilities and influence of the OCC and Ontario Chamber Network. Despite the constantly evolving landscape, the Chamber has consistently adapted and thrived. From hosting successful events and establishing valuable partnerships, to advocating for important policies and utilizing innovative technologies, the OCC has demonstrated its dedication to member support and progress.”

2022-2023 Board of Directors

Don Ludlow

OCC Chair

*Regional Vice President, Commercial
Financial Services, Southwest Ontario
Royal Bank of Canada*

Nathan Lawrence

OCC Past Chair

*Mortgage Broker
Dominion Lending Centres
Mortgage Excellence*

Joaquim Ballès

OCC Chair Elect

*Vice President, Business Development and
General Counsel
Trudell Medical Limited*

Hélène Lavictoire

OCC Vice-Chair

*Executive Lead
Ontario Government Medavie Inc.*

Ilda Dinis

OCC Vice-Chair

*Senior Vice President,
Customer Experience,
Marketing & Innovation
Northbridge Financial Corporation*

Sahezhad Pardhan

OCC Honorary Treasurer

*Executive Vice President
and Chief Financial Officer
The Cadillac Fairview Corporation Ltd.*

Vasudha Seth

OCC Vice-Chair

*Vice President, Strategy,
ArcelorMittalDofasco*

Tabatha Bull

CEO

*Canadian Council for
Aboriginal Business*

Sueling Ching (DAL)

President & CEO

Ottawa Board of Trade

Luigi Ciciretto

Partner, Assurance & Accounting

BDO Canada LLP

Gervan Fearon

President

George Brown College

Tammy Giroux

Manager Government Relations

General Motors of Canada

Melissa Hardy-Giles

President

CEO

ORIGIN

Marilyn Horrick

Senior VP

Ontario Market

Desjardins

Farah Jivraj

Head, Market Access

Stakeholder Relations and Policy

Biogen Inc Canada

Bilal Khan

Managing Partner,

Head of Deloitte Data

Deloitte

Michael Klubal

Partner, Management Consulting

National Industry Leader for

Infrastructure Government

and Healthcare

KPMG Canada

Cathy Lennon

General Manager

Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Aliya Ramji

Partner

McCarthy Tétrault

Bill Stewart

Policy Coordinator

Greater Kingston Chamber

of Commerce

John Tory Jr.

Senior Vice President

Business Development &

Government Relations

Dexterra

Brenda Whitehead

(ex-officio) (DAL)

President & CEO

Port Hope and District Chamber

of Commerce

Kevin Wyer

General Manager

Delta Sault Ste Marie

Waterfront Hotel

650

Attendees at OCC
signature events

200+

Events

38

Advocacy
wins

19

Publications

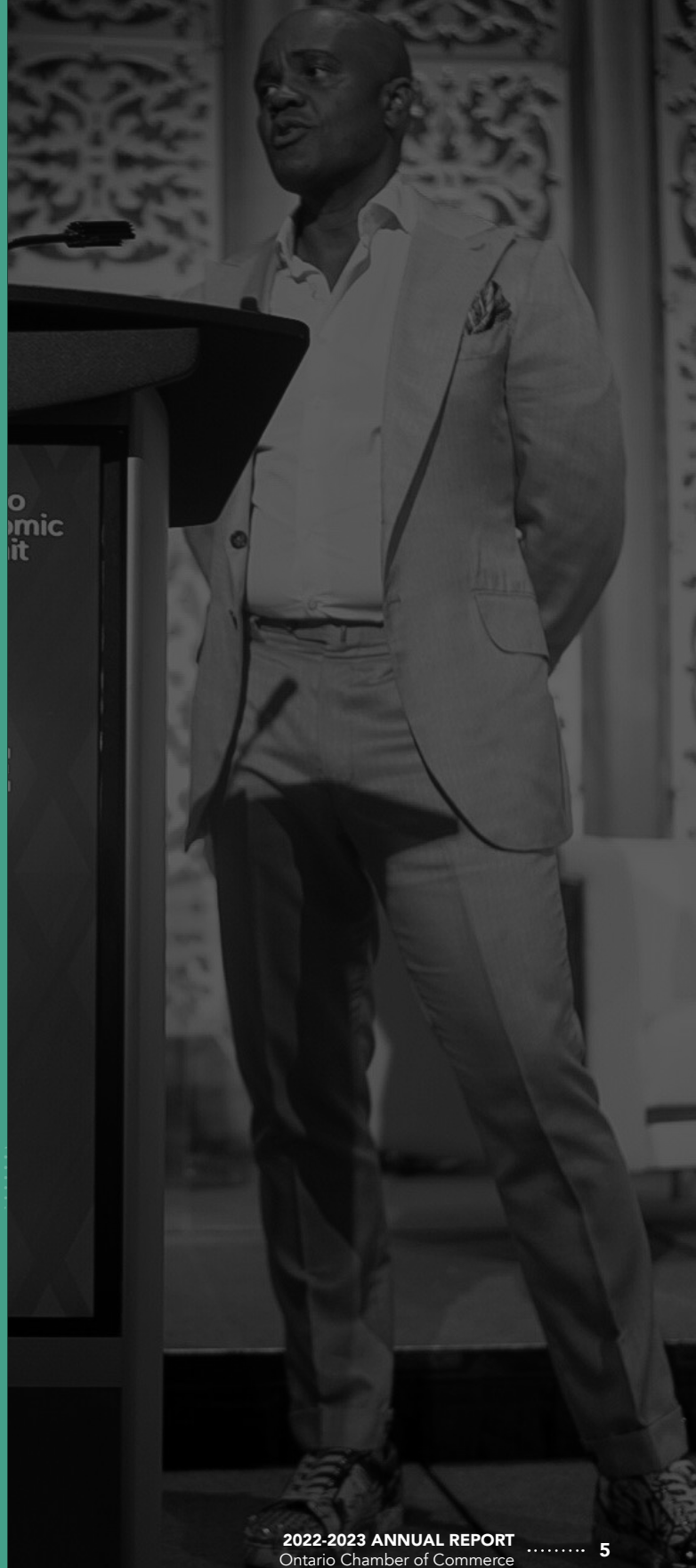
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Programs

5

Policy
councils

Company Snapshot





Advocacy in Action

Through proactive government and media relations, dynamic social media campaigns and creative design, the OCC continues to be at the forefront of advocacy at Queen’s Park. As the independent, non-partisan, indispensable partner of Ontario business, we engage elected officials of all political parties, as well as non-elected officials, to ensure the collective voice of the Ontario Chamber Network is heard. We do this through outreach, meetings, hosting roundtables, and participating in consultations and government briefings.

Social Media Stats

 **17K+**
Twitter followers

 **15K+**
LinkedIn followers

 **4K+**
Facebook followers

In the News and Online

Source: Figures are based on Meltwater, Sprout Social and Google Analytics from April 2022 to March 2023.

2B+
Potential reach

941K+
Impressions on Twitter

685K+
Impressions on LinkedIn

396K+
Impressions on Facebook

4K+
Media hits

The OCC receives frequent coverage in Canada’s major national newspapers and publications, including:



Members of our staff also routinely appear on radio and television including:





Driving Evidence-Based Policymaking in Ontario and Beyond

Policy work is at the core of our advocacy efforts. Through [policy-focused events](#), reports, letters, and submissions, the OCC provides insights, analysis, and recommendations on critical topics of importance to the business community.



[READ HERE](#)

Climate Action

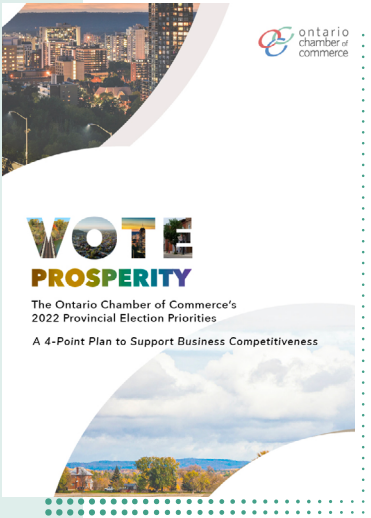
Building on the Climate Action Series, the OCC continued to host timely webinars around climate and energy issues. In 2022, we covered the topics of business preparedness in the face of climate change, the sustainability of Canada's natural resources, zero-emissions vehicles, and small modular reactors.



[READ HERE](#)

The Long Haul: Examining the Implications of Far-From-Market Aggregates

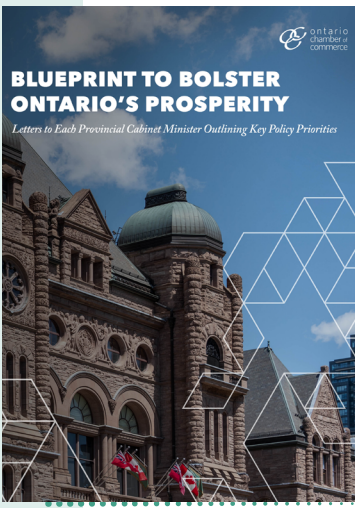
From highways and transit lines to hospitals, airports, and manufacturing processes, aggregate resources underpin infrastructure, economic activity, and social well-being in communities across Ontario. Commissioned by the Ontario Stone, Sand and Gravel Association, this research report contains quantitative and qualitative analyses and a case study on the economic and environmental implications of sourcing aggregates farther away from market.



Vote Prosperity

In advance of the 2022 Ontario election, the OCC consulted with members across Ontario to develop a four-point action plan to support business competitiveness. Vote Prosperity informed discussions around the election and outlined priorities for the provincial government over its renewed four-year mandate. Our recommendations fall within four pillars: boosting confidence and predictability, implementing pro-growth policies, building resilient communities, and supporting entrepreneurship and innovation.

[READ HERE](#)



Blueprint to Bolster Ontario's Prosperity

Following the provincial election, the OCC sent all members of Cabinet outlining key policy priorities for Ontario's business community, underscoring the need for measures that support business confidence and predictability, encourage economic growth, and build resilient communities.

[READ HERE](#)



Broken Links: Driving Technology Adoption Within Ontario's Small Businesses

When businesses adopt technology, they become more productive, competitive, and resilient. However, digitization can be an uphill battle for small businesses facing outsized barriers. Broken Links: Driving Technology Adoption within Ontario's Small Businesses outlines practical policy recommendations to help Ontario's small businesses access the resources and skills they need to bridge digital divides.

[READ HERE](#)



State of the Ontario Tourism Industry Report

Border closures, capacity restrictions and lockdowns exacerbated structural issues that have left Ontario's tourism industry far from recovery. In need of a path forward, the OCC partnered with the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario over the summer to host consultations with officials and stakeholders releasing a final report of public policy recommendations support the industry's recovery and growth.

[READ HERE](#)



Supporting Economic Growth in Uncertain Times

Against the backdrop of a looming recession, it has never been more important to drive productivity and business investment to safeguard the long-term well-being of Ontario's workers, businesses, and economy. To that end, the OCC partnered with Google and Interac to launch a policy document outlining lessons learned from the COVID-19 crisis and policy recommendations for government focused on key levers of growth.

[READ HERE](#)



2023 Ontario Economic Report

The OCC's seventh annual Ontario Economic Report is an interactive, data-driven document with insights about Ontario's economy and the business community's perspectives across sectors and regions. In 2023, business confidence reached a new low amid labour shortages, high inflation, and expectations of a downturn. Still, most businesses feel confident they can withstand the headwinds and continue to grow.

[READ HERE](#)

Policy Councils



The OCC's policy councils are comprised of a diverse cross-section of our members who come together to exchange ideas, inform OCC priorities, and advocate for thoughtful solutions to pressing issues through timely and relevant policy recommendations, statements, and government submissions.



Workforce Development Council

Many businesses continue to face significant labour shortages exacerbated by factors including a lack of transportation options, inflationary pressures, and a sizeable immigration backlog. Resolving labour shortages is critical to ensuring economic growth and will require a comprehensive approach that identifies current and future workforce needs and implements workforce development strategies.

Addressing these issues is the central priority for the Workforce Development Council. Through this work, the OCC has seen various positive steps taken by the provincial and federal governments to address labour shortages and skill gaps, including: investments in skills training, commitments to develop a long-term Ontario's Workers Plan, and the doubling of the number of immigrants Ontario can select under the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program.

2022 Highlights & Outcomes:

- ✓ Highlighted the need for government to work with post-secondary institutions to expand enrolment and introduce new micro-credential programs to foster lifelong learning in an [op-ed](#).
- ✓ Contributed to [targeted media releases](#) calling for government action on addressing labour shortages.
- ✓ Provided guidance to the new provincial government on workforce development in the [Blueprint to Bolster Ontario's Prosperity](#) and undertook continuous advocacy on evergreen issues such as [immigration reform](#).
- ✓ Called for the federal government to increase immigration levels and remove increase Ontario's allocation of economic immigrants through the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program (OINP).
- ✓ Hosted a roundtable with the federal Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, the Honourable Sean Fraser.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL](#) 🌟



Health Policy Council

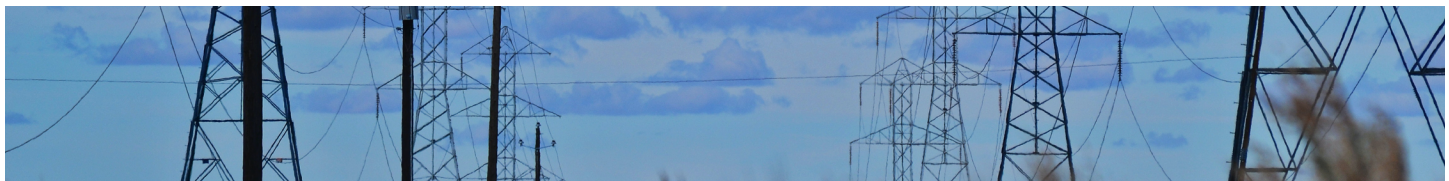
The COVID-19 pandemic exposed and exacerbated vulnerabilities in our health care system, leading to unprecedented emergency room wait times, delayed treatments, diagnostics, surgeries, and routine medical procedures, crisis-level staff burnout and shortages, and increasing mental health and addiction challenges. As Ontario's population ages, chronic diseases and conditions are projected to increase, which will put increased demand on families, communities, and the health care system.

The OCC's Health Policy Council provides timely recommendations to governments related to health care system modernization, innovation, and resilience in Ontario. The Council champions the direct connection between a strong health care system and a robust economy, bringing a unique perspective at a time when informing government decisions on this file is more important than ever.

2022 Highlights & Outcomes:

- ✓ Hosted speakers including Bonnie Scott, Interim VP Digital Transformation & Innovation, Regional Digital Lead, Ontario Health West and Morgan Rathwell, Manager – Healthcare, KPMG, and PATHWAYS—Indigenous Health Collaborations.
- ✓ Worked with the Workforce Development Council to develop guiding principles and key priorities for Ontario's portable benefits framework and engaging with the Portable Benefits Advisory Panel.
- ✓ Participated in the Council of Ontario Universities' Life Sciences Collaborative Consultation on shared priorities and opportunities for partnership with industry stakeholders.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HEALTH POLICY COUNCIL](#) ✦



Energy Policy Council

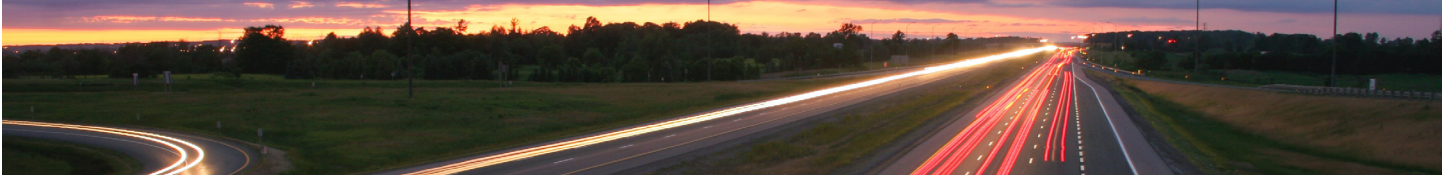
Businesses need clean, affordable, and reliable energy to operate productively and meet their climate commitments. The ongoing energy transition elicits new opportunities and challenges for Ontario's business community and broader economy. The province is approaching a period of electricity supply shortfalls that will require long-term investments in new infrastructure for the first time in several years. Fortunately, our energy sector is ripe with made-in-Ontario solutions that are a win-win for both the environment and the economy. Forward-thinking and collaboration across regions and sectors will be necessary to pave a path forward.

The OCC's Energy Policy Council informs policy and advocacy in this space. This initiative is supported by insights and technical expertise from Sussex Strategy Group's Energy and Environment Practice.

2022 Highlights & Outcomes:

- ✓ Hosted a roundtable with the Hon. Todd Smith, Ontario's Minister of Energy.
- ✓ Met with the Independent Electricity System Operator on the Pathways to Decarbonization Report and the Gas Phase-Out Impact Assessment.
- ✓ Participated in consultations on Ontario's hydrogen economy, energy efficiency/retrofits, and Ontario's Long-Term Energy Planning Framework.
- ✓ Met with Ontario Liberal Party Energy Critics, MPP Ted Hsu and MPP Mitzie Hunter.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ENERGY POLICY COUNCIL](#) ✦



Infrastructure Policy Council

Communities are the foundation of our economy, and their well-being requires adequate infrastructure and resources to withstand current and future risks. Continued investments are needed to accelerate broadband connectivity, expand low-carbon transit and transportation systems, support asset management and state-of-good-repair.

The OCC's Infrastructure Policy Council works to guide policy and advocacy work on this critical file, guided by a focus on smart economic growth and the intersection between climate change and infrastructure. The council works to ensure the province works with the private sector to make the necessary investments to foster long-term economic growth and competitiveness.

2022 Highlights & Outcomes:

- ✓ Conducted joint research through a Dynamic Risk Assessment* study with KPMG on [supply chain risk factors](#).
- ✓ Launched a [Broadband Subcommittee](#) focused on outstanding barriers and gaps that could affect the seamless and efficient delivery of broadband expansion projects.
- ✓ Hosted a roundtable with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Infrastructure Ontario on broadband connectivity issues.
- ✓ Met to discuss land use planning integrated with transit and discussion with Toronto Region Board of Trade on a plan to end exclusionary zoning and tackle Ontario's housing crisis.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY COUNCIL](#) ✦



Ontario Cannabis Policy Council

In the three years since recreational cannabis was legalized in Canada, it has quickly emerged as one of Canada's fastest-growing sectors and has since contributed over \$43 billion to our national GDP. Yet major hurdles – including an overly restrictive regulatory regime – inhibit economic growth, deter investment, and squeeze margins for producers and retailers alike.

The Ontario Cannabis Policy Council aims to inform public policy decisions governing and regulating the sector.

2022 Highlights & Outcomes:

- ✓ Played a unique role in convening stakeholders from across the cannabis sector to ensure their voice is heard at all levels of government and with the Ontario Cannabis Store (OCS) and Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario
- ✓ Moved the dial on important issues including [amending the rules to allow retailers to sell their data to LPs](#), [getting the government to reverse course on prohibiting in-house brands and white labelling](#), and most recently a reduction in OCS markups and better transparency around pricing.
- ✓ Continued to play an active role in advocating for thoughtful solutions to the pressing issues confronting the sector through timely and relevant policy recommendations, statements and government submissions.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ONTARIO CANNABIS POLICY COUNCIL](#) ✦



Key Advocacy Wins

Government of Canada Increases Ontario's Allocation of OINP Immigrants

Ask: In the [2022 provincial budget submission](#), we called on the Government of Ontario to work with the federal government double the number of immigrants allowed into the province through the OINP from 9,000 to 18,000 per year. This recommendation was reiterated in the 2022 federal budget submission.

Win: In March 2023, the Government of Canada and Government of Ontario announced that they had reached an agreement to double the number of economic immigrants it selects in 2025 to over 18,000 to address the province's ongoing labour shortage.

Ontario Supporting Efforts to Upskill Nurses

Ask: In the [Blueprint to Bolster Ontario's Prosperity](#), we called on the government to invest in resources and supports for post-secondary students in health care programs.

Win: In December 2022, the Province [announced](#) that it would invest \$9.4 million to support accelerated critical care nursing at Centennial College, Conestoga College, George Brown College, Laurentian University, Mohawk College and St. Lawrence College. These efforts will allow healthcare workers to upgrade their credentials in critical care areas and bolster the province's health care system.

Ontario Tackling Barriers to Foreign Credential Recognition

Ask: In a [letter](#) to the government, we called on the Province to tackle barriers to foreign credential recognition by working with regulatory bodies to speed up licensure processes for other internationally trained health care professionals.

Win: In August 2022, the Minister of Health gave regulatory colleges for nurses and doctors two weeks to develop plans to speed up the registration of internationally educated professionals. This action is a step toward addressing the province's health human resources shortage and ensuring Ontarians have access to care.

Ontario Government Addressing the Surgical and Diagnostic Backlog

Ask: In our 2022 election platform, [Vote Prosperity](#), we called on the government to create a plan to reduce the surgical and diagnostic backlog resulting from COVID-19 in conjunction with public and private sector stakeholders.

Win: In August 2022, the Government of Ontario introduced its Plan to Stay Open: Health System Stability and Recovery. As part of this, the Province will work with hospital partners to reduce wait times for surgeries and procedures and consider options to further increase surgical capacity by increasing the number of OHIP-covered surgical procedures performed at independent health facilities. In February 2023, the government released its Plan for Connected and Convenient Care which calls for the use of community clinics to address backlogs.

Ontario Launching Early Career Exploration for Youth

Ask: In our [Blueprint to Bolster Ontario's Prosperity](#), we called on the Province to introduce career options, including skilled trades, to children at a younger age as a meaningful way to expose children, parents, and educators to a wide range of opportunities across sectors.

Win: In October 2022, the Province launched annual career fairs to prepare the next generation of young Ontarians for careers in the skilled trades. These actions aim to address labour shortages and support the province's economic resilience and prosperity.

Federal Government Announces Incentives for Medium- And Heavy-Duty Zero-Emission Vehicles Programs

Ask: In our [2022 federal budget submission](#), we called on the government to develop a strategy for zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) that integrates electric, renewable natural gas, hydrogen, and hybrid technologies for a variety of vehicle types, including heavy-duty utility trucks to support commercial fleet electrification.

Win: In July 2022, the Government of Canada announced new incentives for medium- and heavy-duty ZEVs. This \$550 million program will support businesses make the necessary transition to zero-emission vehicles, providing purchase incentives worth roughly 50% of the price difference between an electric vehicle and a traditional vehicle.



Uniting Ontario's Business Community

The OCC's events are more than just opportunities to learn and network - they're a gateway to success. By participating in these events, members gain access to key stakeholders in the business community and government, allowing them to stay informed on the latest policy developments and share their own insights.

AGM & CONVENTION

The OCC's Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Convention is one of the most significant opportunities for business leaders from across the province to come together to network with peers, debate policy issues important to the Ontario business community, and shape our advocacy agenda for the year ahead. The 2022 AGM and Convention was hosted by the Brampton Board of Trade from April 28 to May 1. As our first in-person event since the start of the pandemic, we were proud to host over 150 attendees from all corners of Ontario.



Ontario Business Achievement Awards

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

The Ontario Business Achievement Awards is the most distinguished industry celebration in the province recognizing business success. The 40th anniversary special featured community leaders and organizations working toward an inclusive economy. The broadcast aired nationally on TLN TV on November 12 to over 200,000 viewers.



[WATCH THE 2022 OBAA's](#)



For nearly two decades, the Ontario Economic Summit (OES) has been a cornerstone event, uniting thought leaders from business, labour, academia, the not-for-profit sector, and government to explore bold and innovative policy solutions to our province’s most pressing challenges. At the heart of the OES is a shared commitment to making Ontario more competitive and prosperous. With the 2022 theme of “Building Ontario’s Growth Agenda,” the two-day event was held at the iconic Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto, and attracted over 280 attendees, 26 partners, and 16 representatives from the Ontario Government. The OES remains a powerful platform to drive meaningful change and chart a course towards a brighter future for Ontario.



In Conversation with Ontario’s Chiefs of Staff

The annual In Conversation with Ontario’s Chief’s of Staff took place on December 8, 2022, at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Toronto. This event is an opportunity for the OCC’s premier members to engage in conversation with Ontario’s Chiefs of Staff on the most pressing public policy issues facing Ontario businesses. This year we were proud to host over 120 attendees including 25 Chiefs of Staff and eight senior staff members from the Office of the Premier of Ontario.



2023 OCC Advocacy Day at Queen’s Park

On March 6, 2023, Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade from across Ontario gathered in Toronto for the OCC’s eighth annual Advocacy Day. As a key benefit of their OCC membership, all Chamber Network members had the opportunity to interact directly with Cabinet Ministers, opposition party leaders, critics, MPPs and political staff to share priorities, ideas, and concerns of their local members.



Services to Strengthen Businesses

The OCC is a trusted partner of the federal and provincial government, delivering several programs that support the growth and capacity of businesses across the province.



Canada Digital Adoption Program

The OCC has partnered with the Government of Canada to deliver the Grow Your Business Online grant through the Canada Digital Adoption Program. Small business owners can receive a micro-grant of up to \$2,400 to help get their business online, boost their e-commerce presence, or digitalize business operations. The program also hires e-commerce advisors to work with grant applicants and interested parties to identify digital needs, provide links to digital resources, complete applications, and answer questions. The OCC has hired 252 CDAP e-commerce advisors and received over 3,186 applications, with 968 receiving conditional approval contracts and 186 companies receiving funding totaling over \$600,000. The program supports employment growth in Ontario and helps businesses thrive in a digital world.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT CDAP](#)

Rapid Testing

The Ontario Chamber Network played a crucial role in supporting their communities throughout the pandemic, in partnership with the Government of Canada and Government of Ontario. Participating chambers of commerce and boards of trade distributed millions of tests to small and medium-sized businesses and community organizations across the province, to help curb the spread of COVID-19 in workplaces, homes, and local communities. As the program comes to an end, we express our gratitude to all those who contributed to its success.

10M+

Rapid tests distributed directly to local businesses

21K+

Businesses received rapid tests through the Ontario Chamber Network

80

Chambers of commerce and boards of trade participated

Shop Local

Launched in June 2021, the Shop Local program was run in partnership with chambers of commerce and boards of trade to support businesses and encourage Canadians to shop local. The Ontario Chamber Network was proud to be part of this initiative, which had a significant impact across the province. Through the program, \$7.6 million dollars were awarded to numerous communities, increasing awareness of local businesses and their benefits to the local economy.

21K+

Businesses participated

77

Chambers of commerce and boards of trade participated in 24 regions across Ontario

45

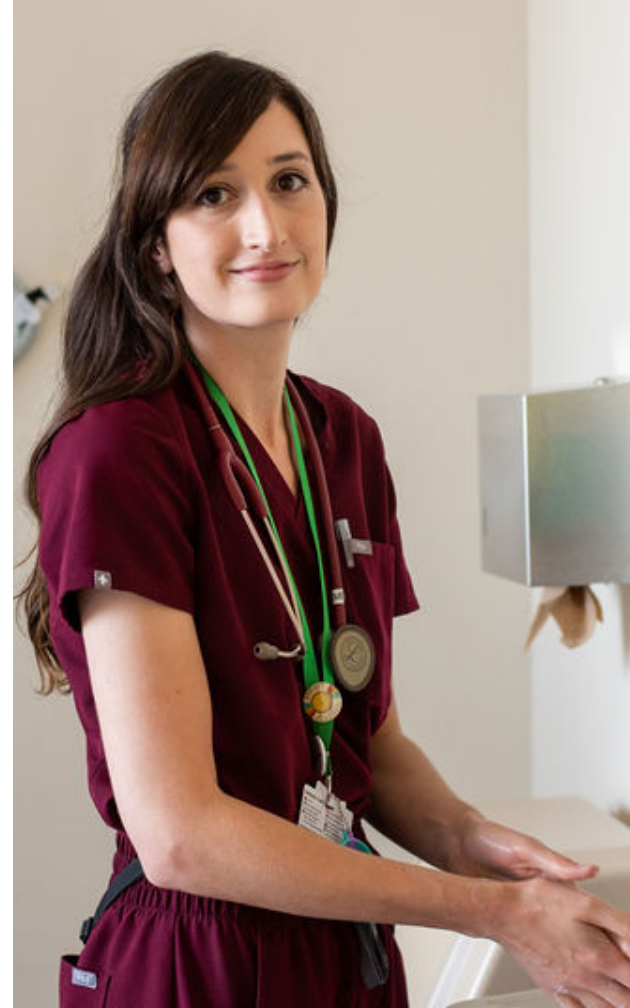
New shop local campaigns developed



The Discover Ability Network (DAN) program addressed the challenge of connecting talented job seekers with disabilities to employers seeking new talent. Funded by the Government of Canada's Opportunities Fund, the program used an innovative approach to recruit talent and ensure successful outcomes for all parties. Although government funding for the program was not renewed for the upcoming fiscal year, the DAN job matching platform and reporting technology will remain available to businesses, job seekers, and partners. The program's impact on promoting inclusive hiring and addressing labour shortages is ongoing.

Opportunities Fund

Between July 2019 and January 2023, DAN partnered with eight employment service providers to offer free affiliate dashboards and 42 licenses to track job seeker engagement, under the Opportunities Fund. In May 2022, we organized the Diversity in Business ROI Conference with over 167 attendees and recognized guest speakers from business associations and the disability field.



2,151

Employers engaged

1,571

Employers registered on our job-matching platform

1,281

Employees trained

\$94K

Provided to support employment partnerships with the OCC's business networks

\$75K

Dispersed to local Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade

\$19K

Dispersed to local employers to support training and onboarding of new staff

DAN partnered with over 78 different employment service providers, universities, colleges, and disability organizations and hosted over 536 events supported by ASL interpretation. In the last year, 89 individuals have been hired through our program, and 36 have held their jobs for over three months.

DAN's impact since July 2019 to January 1, 2023:

30K+

Job positions posted

3,143

Persons with a disability trained

5,029

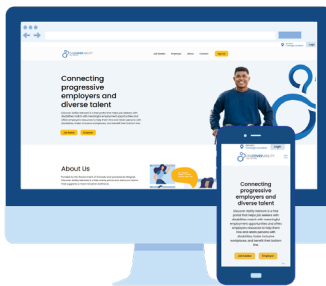
Applications submitted through the platform

1,761

Businesses registered

4,929

Job seekers registered



[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE DISCOVER ABILITY NETWORK](#)

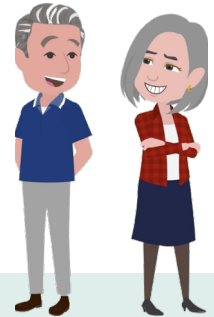
TOP Talent Opportunities Program

The Talent Opportunities Program (TOP) is an initiative by the OCC to support employers across Canada in hiring college and university students on work-integrated learning placements. The program offers a wage subsidy of up to 50% of the wages (to a maximum of \$5,000) for each 'net new' placement, or 70% of the wages (to a maximum of \$7,000) for each 'net new' placement for under-represented groups. These groups include Indigenous people, persons with disabilities, newcomers to Canada, first-year students, visible minorities, and women in STEM. The program is funded by the Government of Canada's Student Work Placement Program. From its inception until 2022, TOP approved funding for 7,105 WIL placements. The OCC has received a new agreement to extend the program to March 31, 2024 with a target to fund at least 1,350 placements.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE TOP](#)

EnAbling Change Funding

Between January 18, 2022 and January 16, 2023, DAN conducted Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) training for businesses under the EnAbling Change Program. The program also launched and executed a Campus Ambassador Program and collaborated with Cogeco TV to produce and record a disability talk show called The Outlook with Lisa and Louie featuring co-hosts Louie Di Palma, OCC Vice President, SME Programs and Lisa Kelly, OCC Program Manager.



The two presenters teamed up to provide the audience with interesting thoughts, resources and interviews on disability and employment. Through its six episodes, the show offered an honest and compelling perspective on how persons with disabilities are integrating into Ontario's workplaces and how businesses can benefit from greater inclusion.



[WATCH THE OUTLOOK WITH LISA & LOUIE](#)

AODA Training

DAN engaged with 382 organizations through social media and outreach for the EnAbling Change program and hosted 10 AODA seminars to 246 organizations training a total of 445 individuals. DAN also conducted AODA training with three post-secondary institutions including Humber College and George Brown College.



Thank You to Our 2022 Partners



Conclusion

Reflecting on the past year, the OCC is proud to have cemented our position as a leading force in shaping the economic landscape of the province. We aspire to even greater heights in the year ahead, fueled by our unwavering commitment to advocating for policies that foster business growth and innovation, and our unwavering dedication to delivering exceptional events, programs, and member services that add real value to our members.

With the support of our members, partners, volunteers, and staff, we are confident that we can continue to drive positive change in the business community and create a more vibrant and prosperous economy for all. Our goal is to remain at the forefront of progress, relentlessly pursuing new opportunities and bold initiatives that benefit our members and the wider community.

We are excited by the possibilities that lie ahead and we are committed to pursuing them with vigor and determination. Join us on this exciting journey as we work together to shape the future of business in Ontario.





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THE OCC'S WORK AND ADVOCACY**

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