

October 2, 2017

Premier Wynne
Room 281, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Re: Proposed Tax Changes Will Hurt Ontario Businesses

Dear Premier Wynne,

As you know, the Department of Finance Canada announced over the summer that it intends to make the most sweeping changes to business taxes in 45 years. The intent of these proposed changes is to ensure a fair approach to taxation. **However, these changes will do the opposite, having a devastating effect on businesses across the province regardless of their size, income level, or conformity with fiscal rules.**

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC), as Ontario's business advocate, would like to bring our concerns regarding the draft legislation to your attention. Our concerns are heightened because all levels of government have articulated their commitment to providing new opportunities for small to medium-sized enterprises to grow.

Tomorrow you will be meeting with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the First Ministers' Meeting. On behalf of Ontario businesses, we ask you to call on the Prime Minister to put these changes on hold and adopt the following [recommendations](#) proposed by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce:

- 1. We want the government to rethink its proposed tax changes to protect the growth of small businesses across Canada.*
- 2. We want the government to launch meaningful consultations with the business community to review tax policy without unfairly targeting independent businesses.*
- 3. We want the government to consider a comprehensive review of the Canadian tax system with a view towards fairness and simplification for all taxpayers and increasing the competitiveness of all businesses.*

We recognize that nobody supports tax evasion or loopholes. However, these proposed tax changes will penalize legitimate businesses, particularly small businesses, across Ontario. Small businesses are the backbone of the economy, [providing jobs to over 400,000 people in Ontario](#). Small businesses not only create employment, they support their communities through local initiatives. If these changes go through, local businesses will no longer have the capacity to support local activities in their communities.

We understand that draft legislation is in place concerning these changes. In order for good public policy to unfold, government must ensure a broader, more thoughtful discussion regarding the measures needed to stop those who use their businesses to avoid paying taxes. We urge you to ask the Prime Minister to put these changes on hold to avoid hurting thousands of businesses across the province.

Sincerely,



Karl Baldauf
Vice President, Policy & Government Relations
Ontario Chamber of Commerce

CC

Steve Orsini
Secretary of the Cabinet

Charles Sousa
Minister of Finance

Brad Duguid
Minister of Economic Development and Growth

Patrick Brown
Leader, Ontario PC Party

Andrea Horwath
Leader, Ontario NDP