

July 4, 2012

The Honourable Dwight Duncan
Minister of Finance
7 Queen's Park Crescent, 7th floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Y7

Subject: Pooled Registered Pension Plans (PRPPs)

Dear Minister Duncan:

On behalf of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and its 60,000 members, we are writing to encourage the province to proceed with the establishment of Pooled Registered Pension Plans (PRPPs).

PRPPs are pooled, low-cost, professionally-managed and transferable pension plans that can provide opportunities for the millions of Canadian workers, including the self-employed, who do not currently have access to any type of pension plan at the workplace. In Ontario alone, it is estimated that over 1.2 million workers fall into this category. So for many this would represent a vast improvement over their present situation.

We noted that your 2012 Budget expressed some concern regarding PRPPs. We share your belief that the protection of plan members is critical to the success of PRPPs and understand that your officials continue to work closely with the other provinces and the federal government to develop regulations to address these concerns. We do agree that accountability requirements and strong oversight of service providers need to be built into the framework.

While we understand the complexity of Canada's pension system, we believe that a lack of reforms in one area should not preclude reforms in another. Specifically, given the time and processes involved in making any changes to the Canada Pension Plan (CPP), we do not believe the introduction of a PRPP regime in the province should be tied to enhancements to the CPP. We strongly believe this is an initiative that, in its own right is viable, innovative, and beneficial to Ontarians and Ontario's small and medium sized businesses.

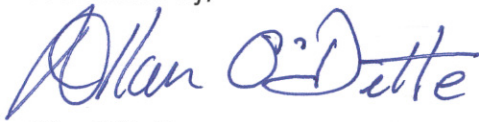
The Federal Government recently passed PRPP legislation. Quebec has also announced a regime equivalent to PRPPs, called VRSPs, in their recent budget. It is time for Ontario to step up to ensure that Ontario residents, particularly those who work for small and medium sized businesses, can reap the benefits of a low-cost, accessible pension plan.

We ask that the Government of Ontario introduce the necessary legislation and regulations required to implement PRPPs in the province. We hope you believe, as we do, that PRPPs will help strengthen the retirement income system in Ontario.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for the timely implementation of a PRPP regime in Ontario. We stand ready to work with you and your officials should you request any input on PRPP-enabling legislation that would create the desirable architecture.

If you have questions or comments or would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact Angie Brennand at 416.482.5222 ext.2320 or angiebrennand@occ.on.ca.

Yours sincerely,



Allan O'Dette
President & CEO

CC. The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Brad Duguid, Minister of Economic Development and Innovation
Peter Wallace, Secretary of the Cabinet, Head of the Ontario Public Service & Clerk of the Executive Council
Steve Orsini, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance & Secretary of Treasury Board