

Media Release

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CENTRE WELLINGTON CHAMBER CALLS FOR FEDERAL VISION TO GROW ONTARIO'S ECONOMY

Centre Wellington: A new report from the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and the Centre Wellington Chamber of Commerce makes the case that federal policies are a barrier to Ontario's economic growth. The chambers are calling on the federal government to play a more productive role in improving Ontario's economic competitiveness.

The report, *A Federal Agenda for Ontario*, shows that federal approaches to areas such as training, immigration, infrastructure, and economic development are hurting Ontario and its businesses.

"The federal government has done much to help Ontario during the downturn, including supporting the HST and helping bailout the auto sector" said Allan O'Dette, President & CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. "But Ontario's economy is still recovering, and we need the federal government to continue to seek ways to drive economic growth in the province."

The report notes that Ontarians contribute \$12.3 billion more into the federation than what they get back, and in many key areas, federal government policy is not aligned with provincial priorities.

"Infrastructure funding from the Federal and Provincial Government are critical in supporting businesses and fostering expansion and new businesses in the municipality." notes Janet Harrop, President of the Centre Wellington Chamber of Commerce. "Adequate roads, bridges and utilities are basic needs that drive economic development.

The report makes 14 recommendations on how to reform policies relating to immigration, training, Employment Insurance, manufacturing, infrastructure, Aboriginal education, local economic development, and the way that the federal government distributes wealth across the country.

With the exception of reforms to Aboriginal education, these recommendations do not require the federal government to spend more money.

"Ontario businesses are optimistic that the province will emerge from this period of economic uncertainty stronger and more competitive than ever," said O'Dette. "This is best achieved when we work collectively to create the right conditions."

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To read the full report go to: <http://www.cwchamber.ca>
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