



## Committee Report

**To:** Warden Mitch Twolan  
Members of the Planning and Development Committee

**From:** Kara Van Myall  
Director of Planning and Development

**Date:** June 20, 2019

**Re:** Ontario's Open for Business, Open for Jobs Strategy Recap

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### Recommendation:

The report "Ontario's Open for Business, Open for Jobs Strategy Recap" is for information.

### Background:

On April 11, 2019 the Province of Ontario released a blueprint of its "Open for Business, Open for Jobs" Strategy with the vision of connecting more workers to good jobs. The government aims to increase employment, create more jobs in the private sector, and reduce regional disparities in jobs and growth through this strategy. By investing in people, building strong infrastructure, and supporting a dynamic business climate, the government wants to build a strong and vibrant economy. The government's goal is to make the Province an easy place to operate a business by reducing government burdens, delivering faster government-to-business services, creating apprenticeship opportunities, and modernizing employment and training services. Please see Appendix 'A' for a backgrounder from the Province.

### Open for Business, Open for Jobs Strategy Summary:

To support their "Open for Business, Open for Jobs" Strategy, the Province is undertaking the following measures:

- To create a business growth environment, the government is reducing the small business Corporate Income Tax rate by 8.7 percent.
- Under the Ontario Job Creation Investment incentive, the government is providing \$3.8 billion in provincial corporate income tax relief over six years through faster write-offs of capital investments.
- By reducing the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board's (WSIB) average premium rate from \$2.35 to \$1.65 on every \$100 of insurable payroll, effective January 1, 2019, the government is helping employers to save money.
- The government is strengthening the competitiveness of financial services sector and enhance consumer confidence by adopting title protection for financial planners and financial advisors.

In order to connect workers to jobs, the government is doing the following:

- Establishing programming to encourage people to enter skilled trades, including the development of one-window digital portal for apprentices.
- Mobilizing the Employment Ontario's Rapid Re-employment and Training Services program to help General Motors and Fiat Chrysler workers regain employment soon.
- Launching micro-credentials pilot project to provide people with skills employers are seeking.
- Launching a pilot project to bring highly skilled immigrants to smaller communities.

There are three major pillars to achieving the vision of connecting more workers to good jobs. These are as follows:

1. Open for Business

This includes:

- lowering the cost of doing business
- cutting red tape
- supporting key economic sectors and regions
- promoting Ontario internationally

2. Skilled Workforce

This includes:

- helping employers attract skilled workers
- aligning post-secondary funding with labour market outcomes
- modernizing the apprenticeship and skilled trades system
- reviewing employment and training services

3. Job Creation and Business Investment

This includes:

- ensuring sustainable public finances
- creating confidence in capital markets and financial services
- reducing red tape in the pension sector
- investing in infrastructure which includes broadband, a
- delivering quality healthcare, education, and social services

To create more choice and provide opportunities to students, the government is aligning Ontario's post-secondary education system to the job market and lowering tuition rates by 10% for students at every publicly funded college and university starting in 2019-20 year, setting incentives for post-secondary institutions to provide education and training of students need to enter the job market and creating a new Northern Ontario Internship Program.

The ultimate goal is increased prosperity, greater job creation, and reduction in regional disparities in jobs and growth.

**Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:**

There are no financial, staffing, legal or IT considerations associated with this report.

**Interdepartmental Consultation:**

None

**Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:**

Goal #7 Stimulate and reward innovation and economic development

Written by: Manpreet Kaur Sangha, Economic Development Officer, Planning and Development

**Approved by:**A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Murray Clarke', is positioned above the printed name.

Murray Clarke  
Acting Chief Administrative Officer