



November 10,2021

Mr. Lorne Coe
MPP for Whitby
114 Dundas St East
Whitby, ON L1N 2H7

Dear MPP Coe,

I am writing today on behalf of the Whitby Chamber of Commerce (WCC) the largest chamber in our Region, and our 650-members to express our concern regarding the impact of the increase to Ontario's minimum wage on local businesses and the process by which that policy change was arrived at.

The WCC supports fair compensation and wage increases that are done in consultation with the business community. When the Province leads a transparent process around minimum wage increases it provides our members with the time adjust to higher labour costs within their business plans. We recognize that workers are struggling to cope with higher cost of living and inflationary price increases in several areas of our economy.

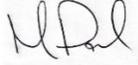
Like other parts of the Province, businesses in Whitby continue to struggle with the ongoing impacts of the pandemic including cashflow constraints, supply chain delays and other increased costs of doing business. With that in mind, the WCC firmly believes that now is not the right time to be adding more costs on local businesses. The way the minimum wage changes are being implemented leaves employers less than two months to plan and will have considerable administrative and financial impact.

The WCC is disappointed with the lack of consultation by the Province on such a significant policy shift and departure from the scheduled wage increases. We encourage you to bring forward our concerns to the Premier, Minister of Finance and within the government caucus.

Going forward, we also encourage your government to refocus on the needs of Ontario businesses to help them emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic stronger than ever. Namely, Ontario should bring forward new supports for Ontario business in upcoming 2022 Ontario Budget including measures to help businesses adjust to higher costs due to the increase in the minimum wage.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss those additional supports in more detail at a time of your convenience. Thank you for your ongoing support of local businesses as they emerge from the pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MP', is placed over a light grey rectangular background.

Matthew Parish,
Whitby Chamber of Commerce, Board President

Cc: Rocco Rossi, CEO
Ontario Chamber of Commerce