



February 7, 2023

Honourable Chrystia Freeland
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister Of Finance
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Re: Federal Budget Recommendations

Dear Honourable Chrystia Freeland,

The Whitby Chamber of Commerce, is the largest Chamber in the Region and represents over 650 businesses in Whitby and the Durham Region. Based on the values and interests of our membership, our Chamber's Advocacy Committee, respectfully submits the attached recommendation to the Federal Government in advance of the 2023 Budget.

Like many Canadians, our Chamber community is focused on supporting Canadian businesses by strengthening our infrastructures and harnessing amazing economic opportunities right here in Durham Region. If given the opportunity and resources, we know Whitby and Durham can be a powerhouse of innovation and development for Canada.

Thank you for the opportunity to present these submissions and for taking the time to consider them for the 2023 Federal Budget. If there is anything the Chamber can do to support and inform the budget work, please feel welcome to reach out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Scuse", is placed over a light grey rectangular background.

Andrew Scuse
President
Whitby Chamber of Commerce

Attached: Federal 2023 Pre-Budget Consultations
CC:



Honourable Minister of Health, Jean-Yves Duclos

Honourable Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development, Mary Ng

Honourable Minister of Environment and Climate Change

Member of Parliament, Ryan Turnbull

Regional Chair, John Henry

Mayor, Elizabeth Roy

**Written Submission for Pre-Budget
Consultations in Advance of the 2023 Federal
Budget**

Submitted By: Whitby Chamber of Commerce

Date: February 10, 2023

Summary

The Whitby Chamber of Commerce thanks the government for the opportunity to provide input into the 2023 federal budget.

First, we would like to acknowledge and appreciate the policies implemented by the Federal government to support businesses, families, and communities alike, to survive and recover from the economic challenges in the wake of COVID-19. The federal government's policies have supported Canadians to reach some level of normalcy, and economic and human recovery. While the impact of the pandemic on the social and mental health well-being of Canadians is immeasurable and will continue to be very costly, the government's commitment to learn about and invest in the correct growth is integral.

In addition, we submit recommendations on behalf of over 650 members of the Whitby Chamber of Commerce (the biggest Chamber in the Region) that will support businesses as we stabilize the economy in a post-pandemic landscape. The Whitby Chamber of Commerce recommends that the Government of Canada:

- Implement a Taxpayer Charter of Rights;
- **Release the airport lands** in Pickering to build an airport; **support the expansion of local transportation infrastructure** including the GO extension to Bowmanville; and support the building of significant infrastructure required in the Hamilton and Oshawa Port Authority;
- **Invest in local innovation** to support Durham Region to become self-supporting in the areas of **energy**; and
- Leverage the pre-budget recommendations submitted by the **Canadian Chamber of Commerce and Ontario Chamber of Commerce**, representing the business community across the Country and Province.

Detailed Recommendations:

- **Recommendation 1: Taxation**

We recommend the Government of Canada implement a **Taxpayer Charter of Rights**.

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) is over-burdened and in the coming years as a result of the pandemic, require additional scrutiny and our taxpayers, additional support. The Whitby Chamber of Commerce Resolution, which passed in 2018, calls on the federal government to replace the Taxpayer Bill of Rights with a legislated taxpayer charter of rights that provides recourse for taxpayers in the case of CRA wrongdoing.

Any review of the Canadian tax system must also look at those responsible for enforcing it. A taxpayer charter of rights would provide remedies in cases where protocols are proven to be unnecessarily cumbersome or costly, or where the taxpayer is mistreated. Establishing a legislated taxpayer charter of rights would promote fairness and accountability, including clearer guidelines and better training of CRA staff.

- **Recommendation 2: Transportation**

We recommend that the Government of Canada focuses on long-term economic recovery and:

- **release the airport lands** in Pickering and accelerate the building of an airport and meet southern Ontario’s growing transportation demands;
- support the significant infrastructure support required in the Hamilton and Oshawa Port Authority.

We recommend that the Government of Canada focuses on long-term economic recovery and **release the airport lands in Pickering**. This will not only benefit the Region of Durham, but businesses and residents located right across the GTA.

The Federal Airport Lands in Pickering are a real opportunity to simultaneously strengthen Canada’s global competitiveness, capitalize on Ontario’s investment in Highways 407, 412 and 418 and unleash Durham’s economic potential. Given the potential residential growth coming to this region, the result could be thousands of new jobs and business opportunities. See the [Durham Region Report on GTA East Airport for more background](#).

We further recommend that the Government of Canada encourage long term economic growth in Durham Region by supporting containerization and recreational development of the Oshawa Port. With the establishment of the Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority in May 2021, there are tremendous opportunities to connect Durham Region to trade and recreation through the Great Lakes Waterways. Investment in the development of the Oshawa Port is integral to harnessing the economic opportunities.

- **Recommendation 3: Innovation in Energy**

We recommend that the Government of Canada continue to **invest in local innovation** to support Durham Region energy cluster.

Durham Region’s business community is at the forefront of accelerating energy innovation and includes a vibrant cluster of energy, environmental and engineering businesses—the strongest of its kind in Canada.

Specifically, we highlight the opportunity to generate sustainable and clean energy through the 2 nuclear energy plants in Durham Region (Pickering and Darlington Nuclear Generating Stations). We recommend the Federal Government support Ontario Power Generation to build the small modular reactor (SMR), and refurbish the Pickering units based on the results of the ongoing feasibility study. Such support not only aligns with the Government’s environmental policies but will continue to foster the nuclear industry in Durham Region.

- **Recommendation 4: Communication and Cooperation**

We recommend that the Government of Canada leverage the pre-budget recommendations submitted by the **Canadian Chamber of Commerce and Ontario Chamber of Commerce**, representing the business community across the Country and Province.