



news@chamber.ca

June 25, 2008

Government Announces Preferred Location for new Windsor-Detroit Crossing

On June 18, 2008, the government of Canada announced the preferred location of the new inspection plazas and bridge in the Windsor-Detroit region. The preferred location is in the Brighton Beach area located in the west end of Windsor and will connect with the Delray area in Detroit. This location was based on the analysis done by the Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) study team. The new crossing is expected to be operational by 2013.

For more information on this issue, contact Ryan Stein, Policy Analyst, (613) 238-4000, x250, rstein@chamber.ca.

Canada Marine Act Amendments Receive Royal Assent

Last week Bill C-23, *An Act to Amend the Canada Marine Act, the Canada Transportation Act, the Pilotage Act and other Acts in consequence* received royal assent. These amendments strengthen the operating framework for Canada Port Authorities (CPAs) by modifying the current borrowing regime, providing for access to contribution funding, and clarifying some aspects of governance. Furthermore, the amendments also include provisions regarding amalgamation of CPAs and introduce new provisions to make the enforcement of minor violations easier to manage.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce participated in the 2002 review of the *Canada Marine Act* and has since been advocating for a competitive and sustainable marine transportation policy.

Marine transportation is a critical component to our national multi-modal transportation system. Ensuring a competitive and sustainable marine transportation sector will guarantee that our shippers and manufacturers have the ability to continue to expand their services to national and international markets in a cost effective manner. The amendments to the *Canada Marine Act* will facilitate investment by Canadian ports in new facilities, enabling CPAs to efficiently respond to changes in the marketplace.

Furthermore, the competitive position of Canadian ports is enhanced, facilitating increased trade and ensuring that CPAs compete on an even footing with U.S. ports.

For more information on this issue, contact Ryan Stein, Policy Analyst, (613) 238-4000, x250, rstein@chamber.ca.

Annual Meeting of Committee on Internal Trade

In early June, the Committee on Internal Trade, established under the *Agreement on Internal Trade* (AIT), had its annual meeting to discuss progress on reducing or eliminating barriers to trade, investment, and labour mobility within Canada. The committee, made up of all provincial and territorial trade ministers, discussed a number of issues including strengthening the dispute settlement mechanism of the AIT and fully implementing the AIT's *Labour Mobility Chapter*.

Following the meeting, the committee announced that they had reached consensus on amendments to the AIT dispute settlement mechanism, including monetary penalties and a mechanism to deal with outstanding disputes. The committee will meet by the end of the year to sign off on the proposed amendments. In addition, at the end of the year, members of the committee will also sign off on proposed amendments on labour mobility, designed to fully achieve full labour mobility compliance within the AIT.

For more information on this issue, contact Ryan Stein, Policy Analyst, (613) 238-4000, x250, rstein@chamber.ca.

Lobbying Act Comes Into Effect July 2nd

The *Lobbying Act* will come into force July 2, bringing into effect new accountability and transparency rules for lobbying. In order to meet the new reporting requirements of the *Lobbying Act*, the lobbyists' registration system and the registry of lobbyists have been completely redesigned. In particular, new features have been added to facilitate the filing of disclosures as well as to improve the search capability of the registry.

Members are encouraged to visit the Web site, www.orl-bdl.gc.ca and read *Implementation Notice #1* entitled the *Coming-into-Force of the Lobbying Act* which provides further details about the changes to the lobbyists' registration system. This notice should assist registrants in understanding how their registrations will be migrated to the new system and the steps needed to update their content in compliance with the new act.

To ensure a smooth transition to the new system, the registration module will be off-line from 4:00 p.m. June 27, 2008, until 8:00 a.m. July 2, 2008, to allow for the migration of data. The new system will be available to accept transactions (new disclosures, account creation, changes, terminations, etc.) on July 2, 2008.

The Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists (ORL) has developed several information documents including as a set of FAQs, PowerPoint presentations, and online help tutorials to enable registrants to familiarize themselves with the new system, the new disclosure requirements of the *Lobbying Act* and the registry's new search and reporting features. These tools will be published on our Web site as they become available.

Have questions relating to the Lobbying Act in general? Contact the ORL's registration unit (613) 957-2760 Or Questionslobbying@Orl-Bdl.Gc.Ca.

Security in the Information Age - There Is No Turning Back

Public Safety Canada is working to develop a *Canadian Cyber Security Strategy* and has asked assistance from the Canadian Chamber and its members. While computers have brought many benefits to government, the economy, and society, unauthorized users are exploiting security vulnerabilities in order to:

- Compromise computers in order to use them in botnet attacks;
- Discover political and industrial secrets (espionage);
- Steal corporate and personal information (crime); and
- Disrupt services (sabotage) and
- Corrupt the integrity of decision-making information.

The malicious software used to conduct these cyber attacks is called "malware". These security threats have escalated rapidly and become far more sophisticated, given the increased exposure of: computer networks, technology supply chains, and people.

Members can assist by providing input from their specific viewpoint. In recognizing that the information age has consolidated vast amounts of information both within and outside your organizations:

- What scenarios reflect the top three critical cyber risks to the operations, competitiveness, and future of your organization and to your sector?
- Do you regularly share information on these risks within your organization, among peers domestically, and internationally?

Input can be provided to Chris Gray, Policy Analyst, and should be done by end of day Monday, July 7th. For further information contact Chris at (613) 238-4000, x251, cgray@chamber.ca.

Coalition Applauds Industry Committee Report

The Canadian Services Coalition (CSC) recently confirmed its support of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology and its recent *The Goods on Services* report.

Canada has over 12 million jobs, comprising 75% of employment, 90% of job creation and 70% of Canadian GDP which is derived from the services sector, and the CSC welcomes the spotlight this report puts on the services sector. It is now incumbent on the federal government to act quickly on the committee's recommendations.

The report's recognition of the need for action on important cross cutting issues is particularly welcomed. The CSC has called on the government to address the mutually reinforcing challenges of the labour and skills shortages; the need for more robust services data; strong progress in services and investment liberalization in both WTO and bilateral free trade negotiations; the unacceptable barriers to labour mobility within Canada and in recognizing foreign credentials; and the need for the government of Canada to vigorously enforce intellectual property protection.

It is now time for the federal government to develop and implement a robust services sector innovation strategy as recommended in the report. A strong Canadian framework will encourage substantial growth in Canadian services both at home and abroad.

For more information, contact Shirley-Ann George, Executive Director Canadian Services Coalition and Vice-President, International, Canadian Chamber of Commerce, (613) 238-4000, x243, sgeorge@chamber.ca.

Calendar of Events

Aug 17-19- Americas Competitiveness Forum 2008

Over 1000 participants from 34 countries will converge in Atlanta for this senior level event that is hosted by U.S. Secretary Carlos Gutierrez. The event includes four tracks that are very relevant to Canada: *Trade Logistics; Market Opportunities Related to Renewable Energies and Sustainable Resources; Alliance in Business and Education;* and *Travel and Tourism in the Western Hemisphere*. Last year's conference outcomes helped formulate public policy related to job creation, increasing exports and developing public-private partnerships. For this year's conference registration and agenda details see: www.competivenessforum.org.