



**GUELPH
CHAMBER**
OF COMMERCE

**Strategies & Options Committee
Recommendations
Guelph Hydro**

February 15, 2017

President & CEO Speech

Check Against Delivery

Good afternoon, Mayor Guthrie, Councillors, City Staff and Members of the Public. My name is Kithio Mwanzia and I am the President & CEO of the Guelph Chamber of Commerce. We are pleased to be here today to offer the business voice and to play an active role as a dynamic solutions provider so as to build a stronger more robust economy and community here in Guelph.

The Guelph Chamber of Commerce is a member driven organization with over 900 members representing more than 35,000 employees. We represent employers from large, small and medium sized enterprises.

Our membership includes both for profit and not-for-profit organizations all of whom play an important role in the economic vibrancy of our community.

We are particularly pleased to be here today to speak on the recommendations of the City's Strategies and Options Committee. As Council and Members of the Public are well aware, energy public policy in Ontario is at a critical tipping point and decisions that communities and LDCs make now will have implications long into the future. Given both financial and policy constraints, a deeper analysis of the options available to us is critically important. This comprehensive report offers a clear analytical path forward that has been reached through what could be described as extensive consultation by those on the strategies and options committee. Businesses have had the

opportunity to engage in this process in a meaningful way, identify their priorities and inform the analysis you have seen contained in the report.

Changes in electricity consumption behavior as well as on-going capital costs are just some of the factors that will continue to impact the price of electricity. The price of electricity directly influences the ability to attract and retain businesses and foster economic growth. In addition, the strength and reliability of the system are important considerations as competitive advantages.

Throughout our consultation process, businesses and organizations provided key focus areas that would be valuable to see in further analysis of the options.

- **Cost – Managing the electricity cost for industry and small business is a top priority. Cost savings from maximizing energy savings programs and input cost vis-a-vis capital upgrades by the LDCs.**
- **Reliability – Businesses need to have a distribution system that provides a reliable supply of power at all times, particularly during on-peak periods when the load is highest**
- **Promoting competitiveness – Investment decisions are made, particularly in the manufacturing industry, around power reliability and cost.**

- **Sustainability – A sustainable power system requires balance between environmental improvements, economic impacts and societal costs and benefits.**
- **Adaptive – Ensuring that the system is adaptive to the implementation of new technologies**

It is with this in mind that we bring forward the following recommendations:

- 1. That Council move forward with all 3 recommendations outlined in the report. It is important that this process move forward and that the analysis of our options as a community be considered within the prism of financial and policy constraints and opportunities.**

2. The Chamber further recommends that the Strategies and Options Committee continue to apply the enhanced decision making criteria to its analysis - not simply the statutory decision making criteria, this includes a focus on:

- Cost**
- Reliability**
- Promoting Competitiveness**
- Sustainability**

And

- Adaptivity**

Moving into phase 2 of this process.

Thank you for the opportunity to bring forward the input of the business community this evening and I look forward to your questions.