



September 8, 2017

Mayor Hope & Council Members
Chatham-Kent, Ontario

Dear Mayor and Council:

Re: Provincial and Federal Government
SME's under Attack

This summer has been one of the most disturbing seasons for business, given the unreasonable changes proposed that will highly affect small and medium sized enterprises. With reforms being presented at the two higher levels of government, and simultaneously, some of these businesses will not survive the changes, leaving fewer jobs and less investment in our community. Undoubtedly, this will hurt business and the economy of Chatham-Kent.

SME's represent the majority of business start-ups and growth, often taking considerable personal risk to initiate their companies and to continue with their development. The proposed federal corporate tax reform will highly affect the shop owner, farmer, home builder, varied trade sectors, lawyers and many others. These changes represent the largest business tax change, and challenge, to these businesses in decades.

The recommended provincial changes to Employment Standards Act and Labour Relations Act with its hasty implementation will, undoubtedly, cause angst among many business owners and managers. A recent study co-ordinated with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce indicates that Chatham-Kent may stand to lose over 2.5% of their work force due to the added cost burden put on the back of small and medium size enterprises.

In the end, these provincial and federal reforms are mining from the same pocket. This is hard-hitting news to the business, our organization and, I'm certain, to you as Chatham-Kent Council. We have communicated our concerns to our local M.P.'s and M.P.'s and have called on local business to independently voice their concerns as well.

We trust that Council has added their voice of concern recognizing the depth of these government reforms and the negative effect they will have on the prosperity of our businesses and community of Chatham-Kent.

Yours in Prosperity

Gail A.B. Hundt
President & CEO

c.c. – Kent Federation of Agriculture
Chatham-Kent Workforce Planning Board
Municipality of Chatham-Kent

- Economic Development Department, Finance Department