

Networking Breakfast / York Region Budget 2018 February 7th (7:30 a.m.)

Join us at Meadowbrook Golf Club, 11939 Warden Avenue, Stouffville for a Networking Breakfast and learn first hand how your York Region tax dollars are being managed.

The Chairman and CEO of the Regional Municipality of York, Wayne Emmerson, will be joined by senior staff to make a presentation highlighting the Region's achievements in 2017, details of the 2018 Regional Budget, initiatives

to support and attract businesses to York Region and Regional Council's priorities going forward.



Registration in advance is required. Cost: \$35 Members, (plus HST) Buffet breakfast is included. Register online [Click Here](#) or call: (905) 642-4227



Business News

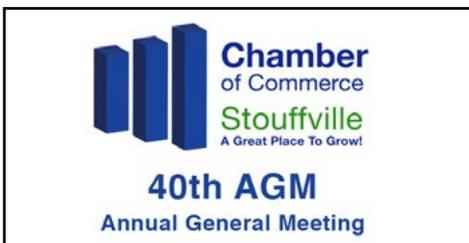
As I take on the role of executive director for the Stouffville Chamber of Commerce, I am excited about the year ahead!

While the new year offers the prospect of new opportunities, there is also some uncertainty. For many business owners, 2018 will be defined as a year of change, transition and challenge. From new employment rules to increased minimum wage rates, free prescriptions for those under 25, new mortgage rules, and both municipal and provincial elections, there will be many new and unpredictable factors introduced into our daily lives.

The Chamber offers many resources to help local businesses meet these challenges, and acts as an advocate for our members on issues that are most meaningful and impactful to them. The Chamber also provides valuable information and resources through our email communications, website, networking opportunities and educational events.

Planning for this years events is well underway, please visit our website [events page](#) for the latest information.

Karen Wootton - Executive Director
karen@stouffvillechamber.ca



Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on March 7th starting at 5:00 p.m. Location details to follow soon.

This year Members will be electing candidates for (4) four positions that will need to be filled on the Board of Directors due to vacancies and succession planning.

Social Media Networking Event



January 17th was a beautiful morning for a social media networking event at Meadowbrook Golf Club! Thanks to everyone who attended and to James Burgess, our terrific guest speaker.

Welcome New Members

- Mathnasium of Stouffville
- Investors Group Financial Services Inc.

Stouffville Chamber Fundraiser/ Mayor's Dinner - March 7th



Stouffville Chamber of Commerce Fundraiser/Mayor's Dinner, will take place on March 7th following the AGM. Cocktail reception will start at 6:00 p.m.

This is by far our best attended event, and sells out early so don't delay order your tickets early. Online registration will be open soon! Or call our office at 905 642 4227 to register early!

Thank you to all our Corporate & Partner Sponsors:





Advocacy Update

My guess is that taxation, labour costs, internet connectivity, transit and economic growth in Stouffville are all topics that have some impact on your business success. The Chamber engages strenuously in dialogue about these issues on your behalf. We call it Advocacy.

Our focus in 2018 will be on all those topics listed above to make you aware of what changes are planned, occurring or are being proposed so you can react. We do not get

involved in the political realm of these policy issues. Politics is not our mandate but business issues are what we fight for on behalf of you, the Members.

Advocacy is time consuming and a distraction for you from your regular business responsibilities but we think it is important for you to at least, be aware. We would like to know what policy issues matter most to your business so we can be a loud voice of Advocacy on your behalf. Without Member input we are a voice in the wilderness.

Chambers of Commerce have a great and influential reputation with all levels of Government. The Chamber is your best lobbyist with no cost. Our strength is the network of Chambers we belong to and the respect that policy makers pay to your Chamber of Commerce.

What is important is for you to engage with us, in confidence, about policies that are affecting your business so we can act on your behalf.



Members' Survey

We will be sending out a survey in late February to our Members and ask everyone to take a few minutes to complete it.

The results of the survey provide us with valuable insight into how well we are doing, what we need to do better, anything additional we should do and what you the Members are most interested in.



WSPS Small Business Centre

The WSPS is a not-for-profit health and safety organization that provides FREE health and safety resources for small businesses. For more information visit their [small business centre website](#)

The WSPS also has a WSIB incentive program: Free health & safety trainings which can help small business get 5% rebate (one time only) WSIB annual premiums as incentive. For more information here is a link to the WSIB website... [Click Here!](#)



Follow Us On Facebook

Don't wait for the next e-newsletter to get the latest scoop!

Follow us on [Facebook](#) to stay on top of all the developments.



M2M Promotions & Discounts

Make sure you have reviewed the very popular M2M Promotions and Discounts to take advantage of some special deals from other Members.

The Member to Member promotions and discounts program is an excellent opportunity for you to reach out to other Members with a coupon offer. This is an electronic (pdf) listing which is distributed to all Members quarterly showing coupon offers to Members from fellow Members. The next listing will be published early March 2018. The deadline to participate is February 14th. Give the Chamber a call and arrange to be included in the next issue!



Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan®

Group Dental & Health Insurance Enjoyed by 25,000 Canadian Businesses

Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan has been protecting Canadian firms for over 40 years. From Victoria to St. John's, over 25,000 small to medium-sized businesses use the Chambers Plan to protect their employees with comprehensive group benefits including dental and health insurance – making it **Canada's #1 employee benefits plan for small business.**

Member Only Benefits

Part of the Chamber's value proposition is the Benefits that are offered to Members. Too often these are overlooked and should be reviewed to see if they afford you some advantage. Each benefit is outlined on the Website and provides a summary of the offering and benefits to you, and your employees. [Click Here!](#)

Thousands of small business owners join the Chambers Plan each year because it's the simple, stable, smart choice for their business: combining accessibility, flexible options and pooled benefits that **add stability** to their employee benefits.

Firms stay with the Chambers Plan year after year because the Plan combines unsurpassed value with excellent customer service at the national and local levels.

Made For Small Business: Accessibility & Flexibility

Over 25,000 businesses purchase group benefits from the Chambers Plan. Comprehensive benefit packages apply to home-based businesses and small business firms – with no industry restrictions. For-profit businesses as small as one employee are eligible for guaranteed coverage.

For more information visit their website at: <https://www.chamberplan.ca/>

Outdoor Electronic Message Centre



Do you know what is the most cost effective advertising opportunity available to you?

Our double-sided outdoor electronic message centre! Strategically located in the center of town on Main St. just outside the Go Train Station. It supports full colour graphics/text, messaging runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and is seen by literally thousands of people on a daily basis!

Pricing starts as low as \$55. per week and is even less per week if you opt for a 2 or 4 week package. All advertisements are put into a rotational loop so your ad is seen numerous times every hour, all day long!

Call Carol at: 905-642-4227 or email her at: carol@stouffvillechamber.ca She will send you the rate card and all of the details.

The Chamber offers free space on the message centre for local community events.

Membership In The Chamber

The Chamber is the voice of Business in the Whitchurch-Stouffville community, which includes Gormley. Our Membership is growing but should be larger considering the industry growth in our region.

Our campaign to attract new Members is ongoing. If you know of any business that you feel might benefit from being a Member please email me at: karen@stouffvillechamber.ca. I would be delighted to personally contact them and walk them through the many benefits of becoming a Member

The more Members we have, the better it is for everyone. Our strength is in our numbers. Let's all work to grow the Chamber together!



The York Small Business Enterprise Centre is offering a **FREE** Webinar Series again this winter so that you can still learn and get new ideas for your businesses, without leaving the comfort of your home or office!

A variety of topics and speakers have been hand-picked to ensure you're getting relevant and useful information to grow your businesses in 2018!

Here is a list of Webinars:

How To Fund Your Purchase Orders & Contracts	Tuesday , February 13
Getting Started with Facebook & Instagram Ads	Tuesday, February 27
Getting Started with Google Ads	Thursday, March 15
Grow Your Business Online @ 30 Minutes a Day	Tuesday, March 27

Space is limited, registration in advance is required visit our website for links to each webinar <https://stouffvillechamber.ca/free-winter-webinar-series/>

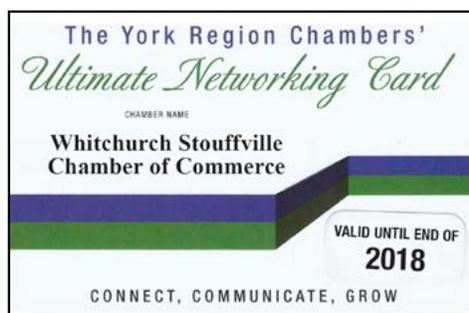
LEARN Seminar Series



York Small Business Enterprise Centre (YSBEC) has a FREE seminar series designed to help you build a more effective sales strategy.

Business is always changing – and these days, the speed of change is crazy fast. The YSBEC is there to help. They've got a wealth of learning opportunities to keep you up-to-date, up-to-speed and armed with the info you need. Join them for this series. All sessions run on Thursdays from 9 to 11 a.m.

A list of all the seminars are available on our website. [Click Here!](#)



Ultimate Networking Card

Being a Member of the Stouffville Chamber of Commerce includes a special, member-only privilege: the York Region Ultimate Networking Card. Holders of this card are entitled to attend any event scheduled by each of the nine different Chamber groups in York Region, at member pricing. Maximize your networking opportunities and see your business grow!

Events Calendar 2018

Our Events Calendar for 2018 is shaping up nicely, but there is still lots of work to be done. If you have any suggestions we invite you to let the Chamber office know. Our events are designed for your benefit so let us know what you would like to see.

Networking Budget Breakfast

February 7th Starting at 7:30 a.m.
Meadowbrook Golf Club
11939 Warden Avenue, Stouffville

Register online: [Click Here](#)

AGM

March 7th (5:00 to 6:00 p.m.)
Location details to follow

Mayor's Dinner

March 7th (6:00 to 9:00 p.m.)
More details to follow

Online Registration will open soon!

Luncheon Minister Philpott

May 14th (11:30 to 1:00 p.m.)
Sleepy Hollow Golf & Country Club
13242 Tenth Line, Stouffville

More Details to Follow



To view a calendar and full list of events that are offered by all nine York Region Chamber [Click Here!](#)

Employment Standards in Ontario

The *Employment Standards Act, 2000* (ESA) protects employees and sets minimum standards for most workplaces in Ontario.

Employers are prohibited from penalizing employees in any way for exercising their ESA rights.

**FAIR AT
WORK
ONTARIO**

What you need to know

Minimum wage

Most employees are entitled to be paid at least the minimum wage. For current rates visit:

[Ontario.ca/minimumwage](https://www.ontario.ca/minimumwage).

Hours of work and overtime

There are daily and weekly limits on hours of work, and rules around meal breaks, rest periods and overtime.

Public holidays

Ontario has a number of public holidays each year. Most employees are entitled to take these days off work and be paid public holiday pay.

Vacation time and pay

Most employees earn vacation time after every 12 months of work. There are rules around the amount of vacation pay an employee earns.

Termination notice and pay

In most cases, employers must give advance written notice when terminating employment and/or termination pay instead of notice.

Leaves of absence

There are a number of job-protected leaves of absence in Ontario. Examples include pregnancy, parental, family caregiver, personal emergency leave (paid and unpaid) and sexual and/or domestic violence leave (paid and unpaid).

Learn more about your rights at:

[Ontario.ca/employmentstandards](https://www.ontario.ca/employmentstandards)

1-800-531-5551 or TTY 1-866-567-8893

 @ONlabour  @OntarioMinistryofLabour

Other employment rights, exemptions and special rules

There are other rights, exemptions and special rules not listed on this poster including rights to severance pay and special rules for assignment employees of temporary help agencies.



Subscribe to stay up-to-date on the latest news that can affect you and your workplace:
[Ontario.ca/labournews](https://www.ontario.ca/labournews)

Improve Health & Safety For Your Small Business

Health and safety doesn't have to be complicated. The WSPS Small Business Advisory Service matches small businesses with a health and safety expert. This expert will help you improve health and safety in your business using simple, easy to implement solutions.

BENEFITS:

- **COST** The program is free for all participants who are selected!
- **SUPPORT** An expert health and safety advisor will help guide you through the short program
- **ON-SITE ADVICE** Professional assistance from advisors at times that work for you
- **RESOURCES** Program handbook with practical tools and information included



Apply for the free WSPS Small Business Advisory Service!

WSPS.CA



APPLY FOR THE WSPS SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY SERVICE!

WHAT'S INVOLVED?

- **TIME** Spend approximately 9 hours working with your expert advisor at times that fit your schedule
- **REVIEW** Work with your advisor to review the current status of health and safety in your business, including a workplace walk-through
- **IMPLEMENTATION** Listen to suggestions and new ideas from the advisor and implement changes needed to improve your business
- **FOLLOW-UP** Share information with your workers and continue to improve the health and safety of your business

810-111-01-IGOT OCT-16

APPLY TODAY!

CUSTOMERCARE@WSPS.CA

Small Businesses in Ontario with under 19 employees from any industry will be considered.

For more information contact Workplace Safety & Prevention Services

WSPS.ca 905 614 1400/1 877 494 WSPS (9777)

