



Advocacy | Networking | Education

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**Budget Response from Kingston
'Back to Balance'
The Business Community must continue to be Part of the Solution**

For immediate release ~ Friday, April 12, 2019

Karen Cross, Executive Director of the Greater Kingston Chamber of Commerce commented, “We are encouraged to see that the Government of Ontario heard the message of our membership and is taking reasonable steps to build a competitive Ontario. Critical investments in skills and infrastructure will hopefully promote long-term economic growth.” **Locally, the Kingston Chamber has long proposed investments in broadband and skills development to support the growth of our local businesses.**

Key measures in Budget 2019 supported by the Ontario business community include:

- **Skills and workforce development:** Modernizing Ontario’s apprenticeship system, reforming skills and employment training programs, and improving the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program are all critical steps to create the workforce of the future.
- **Infrastructure:** The government will invest \$315 million in critical broadband and cellular infrastructure over the next five years. Access to high-speed internet is a basic requirement of the 21st century economy, much like roads, bridges, and electricity.
- **Competitive taxation:** Building a more competitive tax environment is critical to fueling investment, innovation, and economic growth across Ontario, particularly in times of fiscal limitation. The Ontario Job Creation Investment Incentive will provide much-needed tax relief for industry while promoting investment and job growth. Work still needs to be done to encourage the government to help small businesses scale-up by creating a variable small business tax rate.

For more information please contact:

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