

## Media Release

### **Bill 148, The Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act Shows Lack of Concern for Employers**

*Newmarket Chamber of Commerce disappointed in Government of Ontario's decision to pass Bill 148 without necessary amendments*

**Newmarket, November 22, 2017:** Today, the Government of Ontario's Bill 148, the Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act passed its final reading in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. Despite repeated efforts of highlighting to Government the critical impact on the survival of businesses stemming from the rapid implementation of this legislation, the Government chose not to make the amendments.

While the Government did introduce offsets, they will not be enough for businesses to absorb these costs. Three economic reports released over the year stated quite plainly that a gradual phase in of the new rules would significantly decrease the impact to businesses and jobs in Ontario.

"It's a sad day for business owners who are facing the realization the Government just isn't interested in listening to their concerns" said Debra Scott, President & CEO of the Newmarket Chamber of Commerce. "Employers had frequently asked for predictability and time to adjust to these changes. There is no feasible way to absorb and adjust to a 32 per cent hit in less than 18 months without giving businesses the time to prepare for these changes."

The Newmarket Chamber of Commerce is disappointed by the direction the Government of Ontario has taken. However, we will continue to work with Government and all political parties to help ensure that employers are given the necessary tools to help them through this difficult transition period.

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#### **About Newmarket Chamber of Commerce:**

Newmarket Chamber of Commerce is the voice of business in Newmarket. It represents the interests of approximately 850 members through member programs and services, government representation and the development of public policy.

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