

Policy Paper on Red Tape Reduction for Business

Issue

The Chamber of Commerce Brantford-Brant recognizes the major negative impact that a significant percentage of “Red Tape” has on all businesses and organizations in our community. The difficulty faced by business in presenting a united front or a common voice to all levels of Governments is that Red Tape means different things to different people and the various sectors are impacted to varying degrees.

Excessive Red Tape often results in constrictive regulations and delays that stifle growth and opportunity. The goal should be to manage risk to an acceptable level but not to attempt to eliminate it altogether.

Background

As noted in the overview of the Issue, Red Tape has a wide range of meanings for people and is perceived in many different ways. To focus our position, the following definition is what we believe Red Tape to be:

Red Tape is any law, regulation, policy or procedure implemented by any level of government or public sector corporation that is considered redundant or bureaucratic and hinders, restricts or prevents action or decision-making or creates additional work, cost or time delays for private and public enterprises with no measurable and significant benefit to public interest or safety or even to the department or agency charged with administration and/or enforcement.

Due to the overwhelming complexities surrounding the issue of Red Tape, our Community is best served by The Chamber taking a position that is clear, concise and applicable to all Governments and private or public organizations.

Our Position

Recognizing that all legislation and regulation is not bad, we believe that all levels of Government should follow the following guiding principles as they pertain to the ongoing oversight and management of Red Tape and its impact on organizational cost and efficiencies:

- There should be systematically scheduled reviews of non core legislation and regulation to ensure current relevancy and to minimize the potential impact of redundancy.
- With due consideration to privacy issues, common information should only be reported once and shared as necessary by the appropriate authorities.
- There must be a significant level of value added and customer/public focus used when drafting all new and re-engineered regulation, legislation or policy.
- New technologies must be embraced that could eliminate current burdens or positively impact the efficiencies for compliance with existing or new initiatives.
- Streamline the procedural aspects of reporting including frequency, complexity and the clarity of required information with the goal of minimizing time and cost with compliance reporting.
- Always be focused on finding a better, more “user friendly” alternative.
- We support a policy of a minimum of one for one – one removed for every new regulation or policy implemented – but we also believe that a higher ratio is attainable.