

Providing Small Businesses with Better Access to Government Support and Procurement Opportunities

Province Announces New Measures to Celebrate Small Business Week
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Ontario is helping small businesses grow by providing better access to government support services and procurement opportunities.

Jeff Leal, Minister Responsible for Small Business, made the announcement today in Toronto, alongside Richard Koroscil, Interim President and CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce.

Ontario will designate 33 per cent of its procurement spending to small and medium-sized businesses by 2020, which will be supported by initiatives to improve the process by making it easier for businesses to submit bids.

The province has also launched a new program called [Small Business Access](#), which will provide resources online and over the phone to make it easier for small businesses to interact with the government and get the supports they need. The government is partnering with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and working with small businesses to promote awareness of this new dedicated service.

Supporting small businesses is part of our plan to create jobs, grow the economy and help people in their everyday lives.

QUOTES

" During Small Business Week, we're celebrating Ontario's vibrant small business community and their hard work to provide good jobs for families, strengthen local communities and grow our economy. Providing supportive tools to enable businesses to succeed is a key focus for our government, which is why we're excited to work with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce on initiatives like Small Business Access."

- Jeff Leal

Minister Responsible for Small Business

" Small businesses constitute a large proportion of the OCC's members and are powerful economic drivers in their local communities and across the province. We are partnering with the Ontario government on Small Business Access to help small businesses around the province access support, information and resources when navigating through the province's regulatory

environment."

- Richard Koroscil

Interim President and CEO, Ontario Chamber of Commerce

QUICK FACTS

- Founded by Business Development Bank of Canada in 1981, Small Business Week is an annual nationwide celebration of entrepreneurs and small businesses. This year, it runs from October 15-21.
- About 98 per cent of Ontario's businesses have fewer than 100 employees.
- Annually, Ontario government ministries procure approximately \$6-billion worth of goods, services and construction.
- Ontario recently introduced the proposed [Cutting Unnecessary Red Tape Act, 2017](#), which would, if passed, help build a smarter, more modern regulatory environment by rooting out unnecessary burdens and streamlining regulations.
- Ontario's five-year, \$650-million [Business Growth Initiative](#) is helping to grow the economy and create jobs by promoting an innovation-based economy, helping small companies scale-up and modernizing regulations for businesses.

LEARN MORE

- [Visit Small Business Access at Ontario.ca/smallbusiness](#)
- [Read the 2017 Ontario Budget](#)
- [How to do business with the Ontario government](#)
- [Advice and support for small businesses](#)

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