



**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COUNCIL**

**Ontario Chamber of Commerce  
500 East "E" Street  
Suite 200  
Ontario CA 91764**

**Thursday, September 13, 2007  
9:30am – 10:30am**

***Presiding: Bob Cruz, Chair***

**Call to Order**

**Chair's Report**

- *GAC Voting Membership*
- *Final Operating Procedures*

**President & CEO Report.**

- *Federal Action Briefings, Washington DC: September 17 – September 19, 2007*

**Legislative Representative Updates**

**Agenda Items**

1. **2007 Policy Platform** **ACTION**

*Next GAC Meeting: Thursday, October 11, 2007*

**Adjourn**

**GAC Voting Membership**

The following GAC voting member serves from May 10, 2007 to December 31, 2008.

**Bob Cruz, Chair**  
The Gas Company

**Sonny Rosales**  
Merrill Lynch

**Sandra Elrod**

**Neil Derry**  
Edison

**Peter Synn**  
Enterprise Rent-A Car

**Cindy Anderson**  
BAE Systems

**Patti Arldt**  
Metropolitan Water District

**Cid Pinedo**  
Chaffey College Foundation

**Maria Tessoro Fermin**  
LA/Ontario International Airport

**Steve Harrington**  
County of San Bernardino

**Jack Storrusten**  
Daily Bulletin

**GAC Staff:**

**Mark Smiley**  
President and CEO

**Shaun Lumachi**  
Director of Government Affairs

## **Operating Procedures**

### **Presentation**

**Bob Cruz, GAC Chair**  
The Gas Company

### **Final Operating Procedures**

*Developed by GAC, May – August 2007*

*Revised by the Executive Committee, June 2007*

*Approved by Ontario Chamber Board of Directors, August 2007*

#### **I. Mission Statement**

The mission of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (GAC) is to create a favorable and profitable business climate by representing the interests of its business community on relevant local, state and federal public policy issues.

#### **II. Composition**

1. The GAC meets the second Thursday of each month at 9:30am.
2. The GAC shall consist of no more than 13 voting members.
3. Composition shall be representative of the Ontario Chamber membership.
4. The GAC Chair is appointed by the incoming Chair of the Board of Directors in consultation with the Vice Chair for Government Affairs and the President/CEO subject to Board approval each year.
5. GAC membership is open to all Ontario Chamber members in good standing.
6. City staff, elected officials and their representatives shall not be voting members of the GAC, but are encouraged to attend all GAC meetings to report any relevant business-related priorities.

#### **III. Meeting Agenda Protocol**

1. Any person who would like to include a specific business-related issue on the GAC agenda must complete all of the following:
  - a. Submit the proposed issue including, but not limited to: background of the issue, fact sheets, list of those supporting and opposing in writing to the President/CEO or GAC Chair by the 20th day of the calendar month prior to the next meeting.
  - b. The proposed issue shall include a request for a recommended Chamber position (such as support or oppose) including an explanation of such recommended position.
  - c. A proponent of the proposed issue shall attend the GAC meeting at which the issues will be considered in order to answer any questions relating to the agenda item.

- d. The GAC meeting agenda shall be sent via email no less than five business days prior to the meeting date. Once distributed to the committee members, there shall be no additions and/or changes to the agenda for any reason unless approved by the GAC Chair.

#### **IV. Policy Platform**

1. Beginning in October of each year, the GAC shall develop a Policy Platform consistent with the GAC's mission statement, which shall serve as the basis for approving public policy positions on behalf of the Chamber.
2. The Policy Platform shall have a rational relationship to legitimate business issues.

#### **V. Legislation Position Authority**

##### Board of Directors

1. The Ontario Chamber Board of Directors shall be updated each month of any legislative positions approved by the GAC.
2. The Board of Directors shall reserve the authority to modify any position of the GAC.
3. The GAC's Policy Platform shall be approved by the Board of Directors no later than the Board's January meeting each year.

##### GAC

1. The GAC shall have the authority on behalf of the Board of Directors to approve any public policy positions that align with the board-approved Policy Platform consistent with the GAC's mission statement.
2. Any public policy positions shall be approved only upon a vote of 60% of the current GAC voting membership in favor of the motion.

##### Time Sensitive Position Authority

1. The GAC Chairman, Vice Chair of Government Affairs and a member of the GAC appointed by the Board Chair shall have the authority, by unanimous decision, to act on behalf of the GAC to approve any public policy positions that align with the board approved policy platform consistent with the GAC's mission statement.
2. The GAC members and the Board of Directors shall be notified of any time sensitive position within 48 hours (or no later than the end of the first working day should the time sensitive position be taken on a Friday or day before a holiday).
3. The GAC shall reserve the authority to modify any time sensitive position at its next scheduled meeting by a vote of 60% of the total GAC voting membership in favor of the motion.

#### **VI. Voting Members**

1. Upon appointment, GAC members shall serve a single two-year term beginning January 1 and ending December 31 of the following year with no term limits.
2. GAC members shall be appointed by the GAC Chair in consultation with the Chamber Chairman, Vice Chair for Government Affairs and the President/CEO.

#### **VII. Voting Membership Vacancies**

1. Prospective GAC members may apply for openings by notifying the GAC Chair.
2. The GAC Chair shall appoint voting members to fill vacancies during the year in consultation with the Chamber Chair, Vice Chair for Government Affairs and President/CEO.
3. The GAC Chair, in consultation with the Chairman of the Board and President/CEO shall have the authority to remove any member of the GAC for any reason.

**VIII. Attendance**

1. Upon accumulation of three (3) unexcused absences in the course of the members' two-year term, the member shall be deemed removed. A GAC voting member shall contact the GAC Chair or the President/CEO prior to the GAC meeting in order for the absence to be considered excused.

**IX. Minutes**

1. Minutes shall be taken of all GAC meetings, which shall be kept on file in the Ontario Chamber office.

**X. Quorum**

1. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the total voting GAC membership.

**XI. Amendments**

1. The authority to amend and to approve proposed amendments to the GAC Operating Procedures shall be vested in the Board of Directors.

**Washington DC: Federal Action Briefings**

**Ontario Chamber of Commerce  
September 17<sup>th</sup> – September 19<sup>th</sup> 2007  
Federal Action Briefings**

**Congressman Joe Baca  
10:00am – 10:30am**

**Discussion Topic: Healthcare**

*Ontario Chamber Concerns*

1. The affordability of health care is eroding the ability of Ontario small businesses to afford health insurance.
2. Premiums continue to increase dramatically, causing an unsustainable burden.
3. Today, the average cost of family coverage in California is over \$10,000 annually, with the average business paying for 72% of those costs.
4. Small businesses and labor-intensive companies are disproportionately impacted when funding is based on a business' size or employment levels.
5. With costs out of control, more and more families are losing their health insurance coverage.
6. Any employer mandates will only result in lower wages, layoffs, and the continued erosion of our businesses to compete in the global marketplace.
7. Any funding mechanisms for a reformed health system at the federal level should be uniform and broad-based.

**What happens when we get home?**

1. The Ontario Chamber will focus on three major legislative priorities in 2008: Healthcare, International Trade/Transportation, and Workforce Preparation (Education).
2. The Ontario Chamber will form strategic partnerships with local businesses to:
  - o Build and sustain a bipartisan coalition at the grassroots level in Ontario;
  - o Ensure Ontario businesses have access to information and decision makers impacting our three major legislative priorities; and,
  - o Provide the tools for our businesses to act on the Chamber's three major legislative priorities.

**How will we measure the results of our trip?**

1. In the spring of 2008 the Ontario Chamber will assess the outcomes of its three major legislative priorities using various methods such as polling, questionnaires, and focus groups with impacted businesses.
2. The Chamber will seek testimonials from all who are impacted by the chamber's federal legislative effort.

**Ontario Chamber of Commerce  
September 17<sup>th</sup> – September 19<sup>th</sup> 2007  
Federal Action Briefings**

**Congressman David Dreier  
(Legislative Director: Matthew Tully)  
11:00am – 11:30am**

**Discussion Topic: International Trade/Transportation**

*Ontario Chamber Concerns*

1. By the port passing a regulation that port trucks may only operate on alternative fuel could disqualify thousands of owner operator drivers whose living depends on port business.
2. Increasing rail infrastructure and improving operational efficiencies are critical to reducing traffic congestion.
3. We encourage continued innovation in the area of reducing congestion on our freeways. Near-dock facilities, such as BNSF's proposed facility will reduce over 1 million truck trips off our freeways and is an important project that will improve the movement of goods throughout the Inland Empire.

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**Ontario Chamber of Commerce  
September 17<sup>th</sup> – September 19<sup>th</sup> 2007  
Federal Action Briefings**

**Congressman Gary Miller  
1:15pm – 1:45pm**

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**Ontario Chamber of Commerce  
September 17<sup>th</sup> – September 19<sup>th</sup> 2007  
Federal Action Briefings**

**US Chamber Briefings**

**International Trade**

We will form a strategic partnership with the U.S. Chamber in building and sustaining a bipartisan pro-trade coalition at the grassroots level, identifying and mobilizing our local leaders as pro-trade advocates.

**Institute for a Competitive Workforce**

We will learn how to ensure that Ontario businesses have access to an educated and skilled workforce.

**Healthcare**

We will meet with key business leaders and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to develop a action plan on the following issues: Access to Affordable Coverage, Health Savings Accounts, Medical Liability Reform, and Small Business Health Plans.

## **2007 Policy Platform**

### **Presentation**

**Bob Cruz, GAC Chair**  
The Gas Company

### **Recommended Action**

*To review the following draft 2007 Policy Platform and to consider approval.*

### **Background**

Each year, pursuant to the Ontario Chamber's Government Affairs Committee (GAC) Operating Procedures, the GAC shall develop the Chamber's legislative priorities. Each of the policy goals shall serve as the foundation for the Ontario Chamber's continuing effort to improve the Ontario and regional business climate.

The Ontario Chamber will use the policy platform to review and consider local, statewide, and when appropriate, federal legislation and communicate the information to the Chamber's membership.

### **Draft 2007 Ontario Chamber of Commerce Policy Platform**

#### **Economic Development**

1. Monitor development projects within the Ontario region.
2. Monitor land use, planning, housing and zoning proposals that impact the regional Ontario business community.
3. Review and consider policies that protect Ontario's reputation as an attractive prosperous location for business balancing employment and housing needs with natural resource preservation and to plan and construct the community infrastructure necessary to support current and future business needs.
4. Monitor and review policies that protect private property rights as it relates to eminent domain and the overall impact to the Ontario business community.

#### **Aviation**

1. Support policy that preserves, promotes and progresses the economic vitality of Ontario's regional aviation industry.
2. Monitor and promote, when appropriate, aviation industry expansion including the preparation of cost/benefit analysis to ensure economic impacts are weighed before the imposition of legislative and/or regulatory statutes.

#### **Education**

1. Support the regional educational system that prepares people for 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs and careers.
2. Work with agencies to assist with development of workforce training priorities.
3. ~~Support the development of on-going programs within the business community that integrates with the Ontario school district for vocational and technical career paths.~~
4. Support the development of on-going programs within the business community that integrates with the local educational sectors in our area that offer vocational and technical career education and training paths.

## **Infrastructure Improvements**

1. Review and consider reliable, stable, and competitively priced energy supplies for the Ontario region and California's businesses and consumers.
2. Encourage an adequate supply of appropriate housing to meet the needs of the Ontario region and monitor its impact on the Ontario business community.
3. Review and consider polices that improve water quality as the result of comprehensive approaches that will reduce contaminants from water sources in a cost effective manner.
4. Review and consider policies that impact air quality standards which might place Ontario's regional business community at a competitive disadvantage.

## **Transportation**

1. Review, consider and propose, when appropriate, transportation improvement plans that relieve congestion on freeways, streets and roads, and ensure mobility within the Ontario region.
2. Review legislative proposals that place mandates on upon the auto industry.
3. Review and consider tax proposals that impact the auto industry and its consumers.

## **Government Finance**

1. Ensure that regulations on business are kept to a minimum and do not put Ontario businesses at a competitive disadvantage.
2. Review and consider reform measures that solve the state budget's continuing structural deficit that promotes real economic growth and job creation and its impact on the Ontario business community.
3. Encourage cooperation among local and state government agencies, and work to streamline and reduce unnecessary requirements of regulatory agencies.
4. Review and consider ways to privatize government services and public contracts while maintaining or improving standards.
5. Review and consider state and local tax changes and new tax categories affecting the Ontario business community
6. Support and promote, when appropriate, the preparation of cost/benefit analysis ensuring economic impacts are weighed before the imposition of regulatory statutes.
7. Support local and state programs, when appropriate, that secure tax credits for targeted programs.
8. Consider and review policies that promote the outsourcing of essential public services by local and state government agencies.

## **Pro-Business Leadership**

1. Continue and maintain a working relationship with local, state and federal representatives.
2. Review legislative proposals that promote standards of corporate governance that guide boards of directors and corporate officers in managing their corporations in a competent, ethical manner.
3. Review and consider measures that reform the state's redistricting process.

## **Employee Relations**

1. Review and consider measures that reform the extraordinary costs of the state's public pension system.
2. Seek and monitor alternatives to any proposed state minimum wage increases and any local or state living wage ordinances.
3. Monitor and provide recommendations to any workers' compensation reform proposal that place Ontario businesses at a competitive disadvantage.
4. Review responsible healthcare reform proposals that protect Ontario businesses and result in increased availability of affordable health care coverage for employers and their employees.
5. Review legislative proposals that might cause unwarranted and frivolous lawsuits on Ontario businesses, consumers and taxpayers.

## **Trade Expansion and Investment**

1. Review and consider the application of innovative technologies to improve the movement of goods and people in Ontario and throughout the Inland Empire.
2. Review and consider environmental policies that impact the trade industry and the overall Ontario business community.

### **Healthcare**

1. Review and consider legislative and regulatory policies that preserve the current voluntary employer-provided health coverage system.
2. Review and consider efforts to contain the costs of premiums.
3. Support legislation to allow employers to offer more affordable benefit plans that allow choices in coverage.
4. Support policies that prevent cost shifting from government-provided programs to the private sector.
5. Review and consider policies that curb the expansion of litigation in the health care system.
6. Review and consider policies that encourage continued medical discoveries and innovations that improve quality of care.