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MBOT NEWS & EVENTS

**MBOT hosting Bill 168 Violence in the Workplace seminar - Feb. 25**

Sponsored by Rogers, join MBOT for a valuable seminar about Bill 168 - *Violence in the Workplace*, which will take effect later this year.

Event Details:

Date: Thursday, February 25, 2010

Location: Centre for Health & Safety Innovation, 5110 Creebank Road, Mississauga, Ontario, L4W 0A1

Agenda: 7:30 a.m. to 8 a.m. Breakfast & Networking | 8 a.m. Educational Seminar

Keynote Speakers: Andy Balaura, Pallett Valo LLP, Alison Growse of Pivotal Integrated HR Solutions and Andrew Harkness of Industrial Accident Prevention Association (IAPA)

Admission Price: MBOT Members: \$25 each | Potential Members: \$35 each

*Prices include breakfast, admission and 5% GST*

To register, please contact the MBOT office at 905-273-6151 or [info@mbot.com](mailto:info@mbot.com).

## FEDERAL NEWS & EVENTS

### Canadian Chamber releases report on small business use of e-business solutions

This week, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce released a report that identifies the need for the federal government to do more to help small business adopt information and communications technology (ICT).

*Powering Up the Network: A Report on Small Business Use of E-Business Solutions in Canada* benchmarks Canada's current progress in ICT and e-commerce adoption among small businesses, and provides concrete recommendations for government and business to work hand-in-hand to get Canada back on top.

Over 900 businesses from across Canada responded to the survey that determined how businesses were using the internet, what business-to-business transactions were taking place, and how small businesses protect their networks. This report builds on the recommendations outlined in a June 2009 Canadian Chamber report entitled: *Mapping the Future of the Digital Economy: Key to Canada's Economic Success*.

"Many small businesses are using the internet and have a website, but not enough are taking advantage of business-to-business solutions," says Perrin Beatty, President and CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

One of the key recommendations in the report is for the government to create a National ICT Strategy. "The Canadian Chamber has called on the government to set up this strategy and a council of stakeholders for many years," Beatty continued. "We were a world leader in e-commerce and ICT adoption, but we've slipped and need to get back on track. Other countries continue to invest and make ICT a priority - it's a fact that investments in ICT can be a significant driver of productivity."

The report, available at [www.chamber.ca](http://www.chamber.ca), also points to successful international best practices for small businesses in e-business solutions.

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## PROVINCIAL NEWS & EVENTS

### HST help for your business

The harmonized sales tax (HST) will take effect on July 1, 2010, and Canada Revenue Agency is taking steps to ensure businesses are aware. The CRA has developed dedicated web pages to provide information on the transition to HST which can be found at [cra.gc.ca/harmonization](http://cra.gc.ca/harmonization).

These pages contain the most current information relating to the transition to HST for Ontario, and they are updated regularly as information is released. The web pages also include a listing of free information seminars being conducted throughout the province, which details about dates, times, locations and how to register. The seminars are titled, *The Proposed Transition to Harmonized Sales Tax - Information for Businesses*. New locations are posted frequently.

Another source of information for your business is the Ontario Ministry of Revenue's website, which offers a number of resources, tax tips and information on the wind down of the RST. To find out more or sign up for its e-mail alerts, visit [ontario.ca/taxchange](http://ontario.ca/taxchange).

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## MUNICIPAL NEWS & EVENTS

### Mayor's Job Summit brings best of minds together

Yesterday, Mayor Hazel McCallion joined by community partners, including MBOT, hosted the "Mississauga Works" Mayor's Job Summit, attracting over 300 attendees representing business, government, education, non-profit organizations and labour.

MBOT President & CEO, Sheldon Leiba opened the session, welcoming attendees, and emphasized the need for collaboration and partnership amongst the leading community stakeholders to address long-term sustainable business development and employment growth.

Toronto Star Columnist David Crane focused his remarks on the need to develop a highly educated population to stimulate innovation, entrepreneurship and new business opportunities.

Dr. Warren Jestin, Chief Economist, Scotiabank commented that as Canada is in economic recovery, there is a positive outlook, given our strong banking sector, rich resource base, and growing business opportunities in green/environmental sector and global supply chain, however, Canada will be challenged by increasing global competition, government debt, and skill shortages.

A Speaker Panel provided a cross-section of comments and thoughts addressing:

- the declining manufacturing sector;
- needed investments in Post-Secondary Education and better connections with business needs;

- employment integration of immigrants;
- business and employment growth potential in Mississauga;
- and the pressure on human and social services in the community with increasing unemployment.

The key activity of the Job Summit was the roundtable discussions, where attendees had the opportunity to discuss strategies to enhance employment in Mississauga. Key themes centered on education, integration of immigrants, better supports to business, and collaboration.

John Tory, Chair of the Toronto City Summit, gave a passionate keynote address that emphasized economic partnerships, needed focus on prosperity, the GTA working in a more coordinated fashion as an economic region, and "getting back to the basics" of nurturing entrepreneurship, providing favourable tax and business regulations, improved transportation and transit, access to credit for business, and ensuring the quality of life amenities and services that attract and retain a skilled workforce and business.

Mayor McCallion expressed being inspired by the day and insisted that talking about the issue and generating ideas was just a start, with tangible actions and strategies needing to be advanced to foster business development and job growth.

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## New workplace violence legislation - will your business be ready?

Member law firm, Crawford, Chondon & Partners LLP will be holding a half day seminar on February 23, 2010, at the Courtyard Marriott in Brampton. It will be on the new Occupational Health & Safety workplace violence legislation which will impose significant obligations on all employers in Ontario with five or more employees.

The firm is offering a 15% discount for all MBOT members. This seminar is a "must attend" event. For further information, please go to [www.ccpartners.ca](http://www.ccpartners.ca).

Please contact Crawford, Chondon & Partners to register, in order to receive the discount.

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