

MINISTER OF FINANCE, PETER BETHLENFALVY TO CREATE 16,000 PERSON-YEARS OF EMPLOYMENT IN PICKERING BY DIRECTING (OPG) TO IMMEDIATELY DISMANTLE THE PICKERING NUCLEAR STATION

Ontario's new Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy, can create 16,000 person-years of employment in Pickering by directing Ontario Power Generation (OPG) to immediately dismantle the Pickering Nuclear Station after its operating licence expires in December 2024.

According to the International Atomic Energy Agency, immediate dismantling is "the preferred decommissioning strategy" for nuclear plants. In fact, dismantling is the one area of employment growth in the nuclear industry.

Immediate dismantling will permit most of the 600-acre site to be returned to the local community by 2034 for parkland, recreational facilities, dining, entertainment, housing and other employment uses. That is among the reasons why Pickering City Council unani-

mously supports having the plant dismantled as "expeditiously as possible" after it is shut down.

Unfortunately, OPG wants to delay dismantling until 2054 to put off its dismantling costs for 30 years despite the fact that it already has more than \$7.5 billion in its decommissioning and dismantling fund.

This is not right. The people of Pickering don't want a giant grey ghost sitting on their waterfront for another 40 years or more. It is time to set a new course for Pickering by capturing the huge community and economic benefits that can be obtained by revitalizing this massive waterfront site.

To learn more please read our short report on the many benefits of immediate dismantling: Making the Right Choice for Pickering's Waterfront.

What you can do

Please contact Ontario's Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy, and your MPP and tell them that you want OPG to create 16,000 person-years of employment in Pickering by immediately dismantling the Pickering Nuclear Station after it is shut down.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Chrystia Freeland, and the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, Carla Qualtrough, issued the following statement today following the release of Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey:

"Since the start of the pandemic, the federal government has moved quickly to support Canadians and the Canadian economy.

"Government action has already helped Canadians stay safe and buffered the worst eco-

nomics impacts. Programs like the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and the Canada Emergency Business Account were put in place to protect jobs through this crisis. The wage subsidy has protected over 4 million Canadian jobs to date and recent data shows that small businesses and not-for-profits receiving the Canada Emergency Business Account have used nearly a third of those funds to keep workers on payroll. In addition, the Canada Emergency Response Benefit supported close to 9 million Canadian workers at a time of great difficulty and uncertainty.

"Unprecedented federal support helped ensure that nearly 80% of the jobs lost at the start of this crisis had been recouped by the fall. Our programs have worked to keep Canadians connected to their jobs. But we know many Canadians continue to face

unemployment or significantly reduced hours through no fault of their own, particularly as provinces and territories adjust public health restrictions and make difficult but necessary decisions on lockdown measures to control the virus.

"To continue supporting workers and businesses, we have increased the maximum base wage subsidy rate to 75%, expanded the Canada Emergency Business Account, and launched the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy and Lockdown Support for businesses, among many other measures. We have also transitioned workers who still need income support to a more flexible Employment Insurance program and created three new benefits for workers who do not qualify for Employment Insurance, including: the Canada Recovery Benefit, the

Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit and the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit. Our government is committed to creating a million jobs, restoring employment to pre-pandemic levels, making the largest training investment in Canadian history, and creating opportunities for young people.

"The coming months will be difficult, and that's why we are unwavering in our commitment to support workers and businesses through this crisis for as long as it lasts, whatever it takes. Effectively dealing with the health crisis is the best thing we can do for the economy. We will continue to be there for Canadians, to keep them safe, to prevent economic scarring, and to invest in a strong economic recovery once the virus is defeated."

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR ONTARIO'S SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT GRANT

The Ontario government has opened applications for the new Ontario Small Business Support Grant. The grant, first announced in December, provides a minimum of \$10,000 to a maximum of \$20,000 to eligible small businesses who have had to restrict their operations due to the Provincewide Shutdown. The tightened restrictions were put in place to help stop the alarming rise of COVID-19 cases in Ontario.

"As Ontario's employers do their part to defeat COVID-19, they are facing unprecedented challenges as a result of this global pandemic," said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance and President of the Treasury Board. "I encourage every eligible small business owner in Ontario to visit Ontario.ca/COVIDSupport to access the support our government has made available. While we still have a lot of work ahead of us, we can all look confidently to the future

as we resolve to do our parts and put COVID-19 behind us."

Small businesses required to close or significantly restrict services under the Provincewide Shutdown will be able to apply for a one-time grant and use this funding in whatever way makes the most sense for their individual business needs. For example, some businesses could need support paying employee wages, while others could need support with

their rent. Eligible small businesses include those that:

Were required to close or significantly restrict services due to the Provincewide Shutdown being imposed across the province effective 12:01 a.m. on December 26.

Have fewer than 100 employees at the enterprise level.

Have experienced a minimum of 20 per cent revenue decline in April 2020 compared to April 2019. New businesses established since April 2019 will also be eligible if they meet the other eligibility criteria.

"Small businesses are the heart of Ontario's economy," said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. "The Ontario Small Business Support Grant will help thousands of small businesses get through this difficult time, while strengthening our province's economic recovery."

"As the son of two small business owners, I understand what small businesses mean to the families, employees, and local communities they support," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction. "Our hard-working businesses can be encouraged that the government's new Ontario Small Business Support Grant offers yet another helping hand that will give them the boost they need to meet the challenges of today and prepare for a brighter tomorrow."

Businesses impacted by the Provincewide Shutdown are also eligible for additional supports, including the government's program to provide rebates to offset fixed costs such as property tax and energy bills. These rebates will continue to be available for businesses impacted by the Provincewide Shutdown and earlier restrictions.

More information about the Ontario Small Business Support Grant and other rebates is available on Ontario.ca/COVIDsupport.

QUICK FACTS

The businesses must demonstrate they experienced a revenue decline of at

least 20 per cent when comparing monthly revenue in April 2019 and April 2020. This time period was selected because it reflects the impact of the public health measures in spring 2020, and as such provides a representation of the possible impact of these latest measures on small businesses.

New businesses established since April 2019 will also be eligible if they meet the other eligibility criteria. They will be able to select alternative months for comparing revenue decline through the application portal.

In addition, winter seasonal businesses, such as ski hills, will be permitted to compare revenue from December 2019 or January 2020 to December 2020.

The 2020 Budget, Ontario's Action Plan: Protect, Support, Recover outlined more than \$13.5 billion in support for people and jobs. The government is also investing \$4.8 billion to address critical areas to support a strong long-term recovery that helps workers, employers and communities get back on their feet, while building the foundation for recovery and growth.

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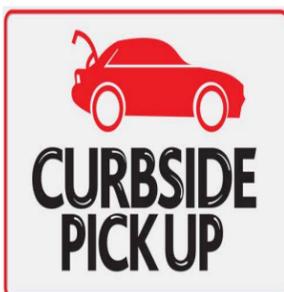
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