

General Meeting and Discussions with Federal MP William Amos

February 20, 2017 – 5:30 pm

Café 349, Shawville

The Chamber is hosting a discussion with William Amos, Pontiac MP, to receive responses to the questions asked at the All Candidates Forum held in 2015 and to receive information concerning the various forums which he has held throughout the Pontiac.

5:30 pm Social networking – *a light meal will be served*

6:00 pm General Meeting
*Report on Chamber business
Information on upcoming events*

6:30 pm Discussion with Mr. Amos

All businesses are welcome!

To facilitate the organization of the meeting, we would be grateful if you would confirm your attendance with Joelle.

RSVP required by February 16
info@pontiacchamberofcommerce.ca
819-647-2312 1-855-647-2312

 CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES HOUSE OF COMMONS CANADA	William Amos DÉPUTÉ DE PONTIAC MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR PONTIAC		
	william.amos@parl.gc.ca willamoscanada @WillAamos		
BUREAUX / OFFICES			
CHELSEA : CAMPBELL'S BAY :	819 827-0522 819 648-2138	GRACEFIELD : OTTAWA :	819 463-0112 613 995-3950

Chamber Events

February 20, 2017 – 5:30 pm

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RSVP – February 16

Business Events

Spring Business Leadership Conference

Algonquin College's Waterfront Campus in Pembroke will again be holding its Spring Business Leadership Conference on May 25, 2017. This is a very affordable professional development opportunity for small and medium sized businesses that is now into its third year.

Early bird registration rates will be available until March 31st.

To register:

www.algonquincollege.com/pembroke/spring-business-conference/workshops/

Pontiac Business Events

If you have a business or Pontiac event you would like advertised, please contact the Chamber.

Jamie Golombek – Year End Tax Tips (2016)

http://www.jamiegolombek.com/jamie_publications.php

**March is Chamber
Membership Month.
Watch your mail for
renewal information.**

Like' the Chamber on facebook

www.facebook.com/CommercePontiac

5 MINUTES FOR BUSINESS 2017 – The Year when Populism Meets Policy

If 2016 was the year of Populist Surprise (none of us predicted Brexit or the victory of Mr. Trump), then 2017 will be the year of Populist Policy. More precisely, this will be the year we find out whether this global wave of populism will translate into concrete policies.

A new U.S. president has taken office and his supporters' expectations are beyond sky-high. Mr. Trump didn't just promise to strengthen the economy, he promised a people's revolution to bring back manufacturing and coal mines ("Your jobs will come back [...] steel will come back. We're putting miners back to work.") and "unleash massive wealth for American workers."

There are few policy specifics yet, though we know the new administration favours big tax cuts and deregulation, a "no" to border adjustment taxes but a "yes" to tariffs on companies that leave the U.S. These ideas are pretty conventional. They're essentially George W. Bush's economic policies with a sprinkling of tariffs. Will they satisfy the angry masses who eagerly await transformative results? As one supporter put it, "My boss is a smart man and he said it can't change overnight, but give it six months to a year."

Across the Atlantic, Prime Minister Theresa May clarified that Britain's membership in the EU would be replaced with a free trade agreement. And if the U.K. were unable to reach an agreement, it would simply leave. Strong words and a shock to business and young people who want close integration.

Europe is in for more upheaval in 2017. The Netherlands is set for a general election in March and France will have its elections in April and May. In both countries, the populist, right wing parties are widening their leads and promising to leave the EU following a referendum. Again, there are no policy specifics, just slogans

about taking the power back.

So what does it actually mean in policy terms to reject trade, refuse globalization and close borders? We'll find out in 2017, but in the meantime, here are three predictions.

Firstly, the U.S. economy is going to have a strong 2017—unemployment is just 4.6%, and wages are rising 3% year-over-year. Consumer confidence is at the highest level in 12 years, and business confidence is close to an all-time high. This impressive performance combined with PR wins, like Carrier and Ford making important investments in the U.S., will lessen the pressure on the Trump administration to push for destabilizing tariff policies. The renegotiation of NAFTA will cause uncertainty, but will take time and will not be resolved in 2017.

Secondly, just a short time after the British begin the Article 50 process to leave the EU (likely in March), one or both of France and the Netherlands will elect leaders who also want to leave the EU. But rather than spell the end of the union, this will bring about a new flexibility from Brussels. If members want greater control over immigration and taxes and an exemption from certain regulations, surely that is preferable to dismantling the union.

Lastly, Canadian business will see stronger export demand from a healthy U.S. economy and a weaker loonie. The uncertainty surrounding NAFTA will be troublesome, but we'll be working with businesses and allies in the U.S. to promote the benefits of trade. Overall, 2017 will be a year of Shock and Opportunity. To find out more, check out our Crystal Ball Report.

For more information, please contact :
Hendrik Brakel
Senior Director, Economic, Financial
& Tax Policy 613.238.4000 (284) |
hbrakel@chamber.ca

Refer a Non-Member to the Pontiac Chamber of Commerce – and receive a benefit for yourself!

We all know of other Pontiac businesses who could benefit from being a Chamber member. The Chamber feels the best person to contact these businesses to encourage them to join the Chamber would be another Chamber member. You know the benefits – both to your own business and to business in the Pontiac.

As a thank you, if you refer a non-member to the Pontiac Chamber of Commerce and they join for the current membership year, you will receive a \$25 refund towards your own membership renewal with the Chamber the following year!

The referral does not apply to existing Chamber members or those who have previously been members. The maximum for refunds will be 5 referrals per member for each membership year. Just make sure to mark your own name and business at the bottom of their membership form.

**Think Global
... Buy Local**

**Support Those
Who Support
You**

Key Small Business Statistics

Source: www.ic.gc.ca

Highest Level of Education Attained by SME Owners, 2014

Level of Education	Small (1–99)	Medium (100–499)
Less than high school diploma	8.1%	2.4%
High school diploma	22.9%	14.4%
College, CEGEP or trade school diploma	30.8%	20.1%
Bachelor's degree	23.9%	38.9%
Master's degree or above	14.2%	24.2%

Percentage of SME Owners by Age and Business Size, 2014

Age (years)	Small (1–99)	Medium (100–499)
<30–39	14.7%	7.5%
40–49	26.1%	27.3%
50–64	47.4%	51.0%
65+	11.8%	14.2%

Protecting Intellectual Property (IP)

What do you want to protect?

Figure out what type of IP you have:

- An invention or an improvement to one—a patent
- Words and design that identify your product or service—a trade-mark
- An original literary, artistic, dramatic or musical work—a copyright
- An original design for a product—an industrial design
- A three-dimensional configuration of electronic circuits—an integrated circuit topography

Protect your IP

Decide if you need an agent or if you can do it yourself.

Hiring an agent is not mandatory but recommended when applying for patents, trade-marks and industrial designs because these applications can be complex.

For more detailed information, see https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/icgc.nsf/eng/h_07100.html

Electronic Version of Newsletter

Due to increased costs through Canada Post, the Chamber would like to encourage members to receive monthly newsletters and notices via email. It is a quicker and more cost efficient method.

If you are presently receiving newsletters and notices via Canada Post and would like to switch to email notices, please go to the following link:

<http://eepurl.com/bJbZ1>

Thank you for helping keep our costs down.

Would Like to Join the Chamber?

Membership fee of \$125 (plus taxes) entitles you to all chamber benefits. Membership valid from April 1st to March 31st.

Contact info:

Pontiac Chamber of Commerce
131A, Victoria Street, CP 569
Shawville, Quebec, J0X 2Y0
1-855-647-2312 or 819-647-2312
www.pontiacchamberofcommerce.ca
info@pontiacchamberofcommerce.ca

Welcome to the Chamber!

Check the chamber website for links to all Chamber businesses.

Support your local businesses!

News, article suggestions and letters to the editor are welcomed and encouraged. Content will be edited to fit the space available. We welcome press releases and news from our local business community.

If you received this newsletter via regular mail and would like to receive it via email, please let us know a valid email address. We do not share our lists.

Chamber Benefits

Being a member of the Pontiac Chamber of Commerce means that you are also affiliated with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce (CCC) — www.chamber.ca and the Quebec Chamber of Commerce (FCCQ) — www.fccq.ca. You and your business can take advantage of benefits listed on their web sites.



member of the canadian chamber of commerce network
membre du réseau de la chambre de commerce du canada



Group Insurance Benefits

Visit the new web site / view the video!

<http://www.chambers.ca>

Chamber Business Partnerships

**Demandez
une soumission
Ask for a quote**

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591, avenue de Buckingham, Gatineau, Qc, J8L 2H2 819-617-9031

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Exposure for your Business

Support the Chamber through an enhanced membership and receive benefits for your business.

If you are interested in taking advantage of these enhanced memberships, contact the Chamber for more information.

Think Global ... Buy Local
Support Those Who Support You