



Chamber Consolidation in Ottawa

Q1: What are the considerations in merging with the Ottawa Board of Trade?

A: While there will be some changes, it is anticipated that the new Chamber will be committed to meeting the needs of the entire business community. The primary purpose of a Chamber of Commerce is to be the voice of business to local government and work with the Ontario and Canadian Chambers of Commerce on issues related to growth and reducing barriers to business and the existing chambers anticipate this can be better accomplished as a single entity

Potential Advantages

- Strengthen the voice of business in Ottawa, as a single, larger voice, rather than multiple/competing and separate voices
- Enhance the Chamber's impact for economic development, as a single, unified entity
- Increase the value of membership for businesses
- Financial stability
- Less competition for sponsorship dollars
- Less duplication of lower-value administrative functions and operational costs, creating capacity to undertake more strategic functions
- Increased membership growth across all regions
- Economies of scale/cost advantages from combining resources/reducing duplication
- Greater access to networking opportunities across the city for the same membership fee
- Greater education opportunities
- Focus on economic development citywide helping to create balance across the city

Potential Disadvantages

- East end interests potentially watered down when competing against city-wide interests
- Potential loss of autonomy / unique identity
- Potential loss of Orléans-branded magazine
- No guarantee on the composition of the permanent board vs the provisional board or the number of seats allocated to Orléans on the permanent board
- Potential reduction in Orléans-specific advocacy

Q2: Will I still have access to events and other services in my geographic area?

A: Yes. The MOU commits to an operations plan that will deliver events and programs intended to service all geographic areas of the City.

Q3: Will the new organization ensure that small and medium enterprises are supported?

A: Currently, SMEs represent the largest proportion of business of the Ottawa Chamber, the West Ottawa Board and Orléans Chamber of Commerce. The single chamber intends to enhance service to this sector and increase the number of members and diversity of the businesses participating in the Chamber in order to increase the impact and value of membership for such enterprises.

Q4: Will my costs increase once there is only one Chamber?

A: No. Generally, all costs will remain the same and the fee model will be service based so you will pay according to your level of involvement. Click [Member Benefits](#) to see the representative membership costs and associated service levels.

Q5: What happens to my membership in a single chamber?

A: Your current membership will be transferred to a level, not less than the current Ottawa Chamber's Business Associate level membership, for the remainder of your current membership term (with possible extension for an additional year) at which point, the fee structure of the Ottawa Chambers would be adopted.

Q6: What if I am already a member of both associations?

A: If you are a member of multiple chambers, you will be credited for the membership fees you paid most recently.

Q7: Will I still have the opportunity to provide input and volunteer on committees?

A: Yes. We intend to offer many (and eventually more!) opportunities for members to contribute to our business community and drive our economic agenda.

Q8: If the members support consolidation, how soon will it take place?

A: The Ottawa Board of Trade wishes to hit the ground running in October 2018 after executing a 90 day operational plan.

Q9: What would the board structure be for a single chamber?

A: A provisional board would govern for 12-18 months, overseeing the transition. It would consist of a 21 member board, including 4 members from the Orléans Chamber.

A nominating committee will be appointed that will be responsible for nominating directors for the permanent board that would be tasked to find appropriate representation of the different geographical regions of the city, as well as size and sector of business, gender, skill set and language.

Q10: What would the executive structure for a single chamber be?

A: The executive for the provisional board would include Chair, two Vice Chairs and a Secretary/Treasurer and CEO. Of the Chair and Vice chair roles, one position would be held by one member of each of the founding organizations.