

Dear Mr. Stevenson

Thank you for the opportunity to present my views.

In brief, it is my view that an OM exemption should be adopted by Ontario. We are the only province without one, and I do not believe there is evidence of harm perpetrated in those that have. Surely the onus should be on the government to prove that what the others are doing is wrong, or else adopt their practices.

Start-ups and small businesses in Ontario are finding it very difficult to raise capital, and investors should have more flexibility in what they can invest. An exemption would help both groups, provided it is properly structured. The proposal to restrict an investor to \$2,500 makes the exemption unworkable as a means of raising capital. No business or broker would waste the time approaching the huge number of potential investors needed to raise, say, even \$1,000,000, and few investors would want to spend the time doing due diligence for an outlay of such a small amount.

In closing, I thank you for undertaking this consultation, and am pleased that you have had such constructive input from NEMA. I am confident that both businesses and investors will benefit from your worthwhile efforts, and Ontario will not remain an outlier among the provinces.

Yours truly,

Jim Peterson

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Hon. James S. Peterson, P.C.

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