

Local reaction to Tory budget is positive

By LISA TALLYN
Staff Writer

Local reaction to the provincial budget announced Tuesday has been mostly positive.

The budget was called a "good news warm-up budget getting Ontario ready for the next provincial election" in a press release issued by the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce Wednesday.

"Yesterday's budget gives something to almost all constituencies,

lower corporate income tax for small businesses, a commitment to fixing the business education tax problem, a greater emphasis on jobs and skills training for youth, and more money for health care and education," said president of the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce Pat Hatch.

The chamber applauded the provincial government for the proposal to lower the education tax rate to the provincial average in municipalities where it is above the average.

Hatch said the budget had a "dark lining" however.

"There is some underlying concern that, given their increased revenues, the government is slowing its pursuit of deficit reduction as an election looms over the horizon. We have called on the government to eliminate the deficit a year ahead of the current commitment of March 31, 2001."

Local businessperson Rosanne Monaster of Source Imaging, who attended a budget breakfast with Ted Chudleigh hosted by the chamber Wednesday, said she hopes the budget will provide her with a break
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