

VOICE OF BUSINESS

STRENGTHENING BUSINESS

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The election is over. Time to get serious about economic growth: Canadian Chamber of Commerce

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce's President and CEO, Perrin Beatty, issued a statement on the actions that Canadians and the business community need to see from our next Parliament.

"The clear message from the election is that our politicians need to get back to work on the issues that matter. With an election that lacked a meaningful debate on the economy, it is critical for Parliament and the government to resume the business of governing the country. Canadians want less politics and more leadership from their elected officials.

Businesses and the millions of Canadians they employ need action on two critical issues: safely managing the fourth wave of the pandemic without further lockdowns and implementing a strategy to restore economic growth to address our urgent and growing fiscal challenges.

The recovery must be led by the private sector. We cannot borrow our way to prosperity, and we cannot confuse government spending with economic growth. We need to get very serious about growth if we are to have any hope of paying for our enormous pandemic debt and dealing with the coming costs of climate change.

Parliament should be convened at the earliest possible opportunity with a Speech from the Throne that clearly outlines how we will finish the fight against COVID-19, address the economic fundamentals holding back our economy, and get our country ready for the opportunities of the future.

With public finances stretched to the maximum, it is critical we target our investments to achieve private sector-led growth. Growing businesses that hire more Canadians is the only path towards true recovery and sustainable economic growth. The next Parliament needs to prioritize helping businesses of all sizes do exactly that, and they can start by focusing on:

- Extending the wage and rent subsidy programs past to ensure support for the hardest hit sectors;
- Accelerating the deployment of a harmonized system of digital health credentials and providing legal certainty for companies on their rights and obligations;
- Working with business to ensure we have a 21st century workforce;
- Refocusing our efforts with the United States to defend Canada's trade interests; and
- Creating a genuine partnership with businesses to reach Net Zero 2050.

Canadian businesses also want to see progress on other key structural economic issues like interprovincial trade barriers, targeted infrastructure investments, cybersecurity, tax reform, and renewing privacy legislation to avoid creating a patchwork of laws across the country.

The Canadian Chamber looks forward to working with all Parliamentarians and government in delivering this agenda."

Truth & Reconciliation – Commit to reconciliation every single day.

Linda Machniak, Chief Operating Officer, Battlefords Chamber of Commerce

After having acknowledged the first Day for Truth & Reconciliation, September 30th, 2021, I take note that reconciliation is not confined to a mere 24 hours – once a year. It has to be an ongoing process we commit to each and every day.



It was a day of introspection and sorrow, but also a day for hope. Many, like I, took time to learn, read and take a step toward understanding the reality of residential schools. I was reminded that the last residential school closed as recently as 1996, so we must note this is still a contemporary issue not just a historical one.

Until our friends and neighbors can participate fully in society and the economy, we have work to do to support and understand the traumatic experiences so many Indigenous people faced. The legacy of the residential schools cannot just be a "chapter" in Canada's history.

We know that Call to Action #92, from the Truth & Reconciliation Commission is a guide for business, and there is much work to do. Ongoing reflection, education, consultation, along with developing and promoting working relationships with Indigenous people and organizations must remain a priority. Education for staff on the history of Aboriginal peoples including the history and legacy of residential schools is a key skill-based training opportunity. Economic reconciliation too, remains an important part of the journey.

Let's all commit to taking one step every day forward on the path to Truth and Reconciliation.

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BBEX – Postponed



The Battlefords Business Excellence (BBEX) Awards committee has taken the difficult decision to postpone the 2021 BBEX awards program to a 2022 date. The committee had their recommendation approved by the Battlefords Chamber of Commerce board of directors at their September 21st, 2021 meeting.

At that same meeting, the board agreed however, that they would continue to support the Stan Wychopen Memorial BBEX Scholarship program for 2021 even without an event taking place. The scholarship is awarded through North West College to a student enrolled in a business program, who has recently graduated from a Battlefords area high school.

"It indeed was a difficult discussion and ultimately a difficult decision for the committee to recommend postponing the highlight event in the business calendar in the Battlefords", says Linda Machniak, Chief Operating Officer at Battlefords Chamber of Commerce.

"With so much uncertainty for business today on other issues facing them, with COVID, vaccines, rapid testing, the new rules, staffing, consumer confidence, it would be difficult to ask them to take time out to complete the application process required to ensure the greatest success in the program", she continued, adding "that the most important support the Chamber can offer to our members is to continue assisting business with the issues facing them."

The BBEX committee plans to continue to meet over the course of the winter and into next year to complete their work planning for a BBEX Awards program in 2022.

NEW CHAMBER MEMBERS:

Local & Regional

- ◆ **Beauty Spot Lash Bar**
 - 151 – 22nd Street, Battleford
 - 306-441-1864
- ◆ **Prairie Pet Cremation Services Ltd.**
 - P.O. Box 135, Maymont
 - 306-389-2400

Chamber members, send your Member Milestones to
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