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BATTLEFORDS



**CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**

Canadian businesses still missing clear line of sight to strong, sustained economic growth following throne speech.

Canadian Chamber of Commerce

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce's President and CEO, Perrin Beatty, issued a statement after the delivery of the Speech from the Throne.

"The business community was looking for a bold plan for strong, sustained economic growth from today's Speech from the Throne, and although we applaud continued support for those industries hardest-hit by COVID-19, we are still missing key measures that will move us from recovery mode and into economic growth.

Supply chain disruptions and inflationary spikes remain top priorities for the business community, and although they were mentioned in the Throne Speech, specific actions are missing. It is critical for businesses to see how the government plans to address the difficulties that will accompany supply chain disruptions, along with a clear view on how we will balance the books.

Also missing from today's throne speech was support for the digital economy, along with a serious plan to ensure our tax policy remains competitive.

The hard part starts now, and economic growth is the only path forward that will allow us to pay for our social goals and climate ambitions. To ensure we get there, we call on the government to present a Fall Economic Statement at the earliest opportunity.

"We will continue to work tirelessly to point our government in the direction of sustained, unshakeable focus on getting the economic fundamentals right and boosting economic growth to secure a prosperous future for all Canadians and the businesses who employ them."



Government putting one-way door on the border with PCR after pledging to jointly manage it with the US.

While it is good news that the government is eliminating the policy that forced people taking short trips to the US to take a costly molecular test before returning to Canada, there remains a costly and time consuming issue for all other fully vaccinated travelers.

The policy that remains in place is at odds with the advice of the government's Expert Advisory Panel, which recommended doing away with the tests for fully vaccinated travelers.

In essence the government is putting a one-way door on the border, which will have serious consequences for businesses near the US border. Just as the holiday shopping season, the most important period for the retail stores begins, Ottawa is making it easier for Canadians to cross-border shop while maintaining punitive restrictions that discourage fully-vaccinated Americans from vacationing or shopping in Canada. The 72 hour cut-off is also arbitrary. It is hard to understand how travelers are low risk at 72 hours, but become a danger at hour 73.

No definitive win for Canada out of three amigos.

The Chamber has welcomed the fact that a trilateral summit recently took place, the first in 5 years, but many challenges lie ahead.

Unfortunately, despite the positive alignment by the three leaders on critical issues like the fight against Covid-19, climate change and supply chain resilience, many of the issues of greatest concern of Canadian businesses – Buy American protectionism, proposed US subsidies on electric vehicles, the Line 5 pipeline, strengthening of North American industrial base and the need for a joint strategy to ensure North American energy security – remain unsolved.

The Chamber welcomes the statement from the Prime Minister and the President, that they will "work to develop a renewed vision for joint management of the border."

The current relationship with the US is largely transactional, but finding a way back to a more historically special relationship between our two countries will be crucial in order to work through the many issues that remain on the table.

COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test Kits Available to Businesses Along with the Public

The Battlefords Chamber of Commerce, who have been distributing rapid Antigen COVID-19 test kits for several weeks to the public, can now also provide the kits to businesses with 10 or less employees from their office in the Battlefords. The new process has been announced by the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency, who has taken on oversight of the province's Covid-19 response.



The change means that businesses who have 10 or less employees may pick up kits for their staff and businesses directly in the community. Businesses above the 10 employee threshold are asked to register through the federal program, and will receive direction on how to access kits. The understanding is that businesses with employees 11-199 will be directed to a local pharmacy for pick up of test kits, while businesses with over 200 employees will have the kits delivered directly from the federal government warehouses.

The Battlefords Chamber of Commerce has received its 3rd shipment of the test kits, so supply is available for businesses who wish to obtain kits for their employees.

Drive Thru service is provided at the Chamber (Junction of Highways 16 & 40

East – North Battleford) Monday and Thursday afternoons from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce is Transitioning with Retirement of Longtime CEO

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, who has served the provincial business community for over a century is about to enter a new chapter in its history. CEO Steve McLellan has announced his retirement and will be departing in late January 2022.

McLellan started in his role in 2007, and has decided it is now time for him to enjoy more time fishing, spending time with family, and to travel. During his tenure, Steve has grown the Chamber, developed the network, and focused on growing Saskatchewan businesses.

The board is now undertaking a search for a replacement, and they are confident with staff currently in place, services and all programs will continue unabated during the transition.



"I am honoured to have been part of this amazing team at the Chamber and am very confident the future will be incredibly positive for the staff, board, partners and members. The years ahead will be exciting and I will enjoy watching the continued success of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce," said Steve McLellan.

"I will be very sad to see Steve leave his position, as he is a friend and a friend to the Battlefords Chamber of Commerce," says Chief Operating Officer Linda Machniak, adding "but on the other hand, I am extremely happy for him that he will get to follow his other passions of fishing, travel and enjoying time with his wife and their family. Congratulations on a job well done!"

"When I realized my wellness program could be more than apples in the lunchroom."

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