

VOICE OF BUSINESS

Connecting Voices. Building Business

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The world needs what Saskatchewan has. Time to say yes.

Prabha Ramaswamy, CEO, Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce

Something felt different at this year’s Food, Fuel and Fertilizer Global Summit. (held in Regina in late April) We’ve hosted enough of these gatherings to know when the mood in the room shifts, and this year, it did. The conversation has been moving for a while – from environmental security to energy security – but what struck me this time was how clearly it has landed on something even bigger: national security. The state of the world has changed how countries think about where their essentials come from, and that changes everything about how the world looks at us. Saskatchewan is right at the centre of this conversation. From agriculture to uranium to oil and gas, we are feeding populations, powering economies and helping maintain the kind of everyday stability that most people never think about until it’s gone. There are billions of dollars in projects either underway or on the horizon here and the interest is real. We are hearing it directly from trading partners, investors and governments who are rethinking their supply relationships in real time. The urgency in those conversations is unlike anything we have seen before. The challenge is whether we can move what we produce. This is not a new problem, but it is becoming harder to ignore, and it materializes in ways like rail bottlenecks, port congestion, limited anchorage capacity and trade documentation that still relies on paper travelling across continents by courier. The infrastructure we rely on was built for a different era, and investment is accelerating faster than the systems supporting it. When one part of the chain backs up – which it often does – everything behind it backs up too. It’s a slippery slope because the cost of that inefficiency not only results in missed opportunities and dollars, but also in reputation that takes years to rebuild once tarnished.



However, what gives me optimism is what I saw across the room at this summit. Agriculture, energy and mining are not competing for attention the way they used to. There is a growing understanding that these industries succeed together, especially when it comes to shared corridors and market access. I spoke with leaders from all three sectors who are actively looking for ways to collaborate, whether on infrastructure priorities or on how to present a unified case to the government. This is such an encouraging change. This kind of alignment is so critical and opens the door for government to think about infrastructure as a coordinated economic strategy rather than a checklist of individual projects. Regulatory processes like the one under Bill C-69 are still causing frustration, not because industry opposes strategic review, but because the timelines and approval criteria remain difficult to understand and navigate. Clarity and consistency would go a long way, and so would a system that can move at a pace the opportunity demands.

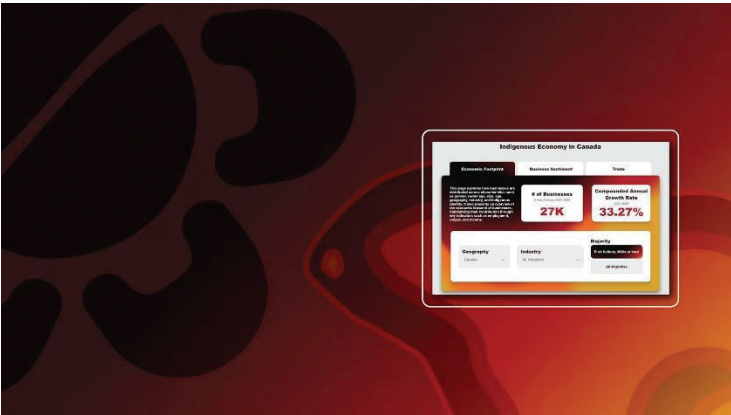
Canada’s reputation as a reliable supplier is one of our strongest assets internationally, but reliability has to extend beyond what we produce to how we deliver it if we want to maintain that reputation. Other countries are moving quickly to lock in supply chains, attract investment and position themselves as the stable source the world needs. We have every advantage to be that source, we just need to make sure our systems reflect that. Coming out of this summit, I am more convinced than ever that the understanding is there. The appetite is real, Saskatchewan’s resources are in demand, our producers are competitive and the world is paying attention in a way I’m not sure it has before. The choices being made right now – about where to invest, which corridors to trust and which suppliers to build around – are the ones that will define the next decade of global trade. Now we build.

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CCIB and BDL Launch New Tracker to Measure Real and Ongoing Impact of Indigenous Businesses

-Canadian Chamber of Commerce Business Data Lab (BDL) and Canadian Council for Indigenous Business (CCIB)

Canadian Council for Indigenous Business (CCIB), in collaboration with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce’s Business Data Lab (BDL), has launched the Indigenous Business Insights Tracker, an interactive dashboard providing a clearer picture of the impactful role Indigenous entrepreneurs play in the Canadian economy. Hosted on CCIB’s website, the co-branded tracker enables businesses, policymakers and communities to visualize Indigenous business data. Featuring information on Indigenous entrepreneurship and economic trends, the tracker provides actionable insights for a demographic historically underserved by traditional data reporting. “Indigenous businesses are now engaged in every sector of the Canadian economy, and as a national voice of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit business, CCIB welcomes the collaboration with the Business Data Lab to show how Indigenous businesses can contribute to major projects and international trade,” said Matthew Foss, VP Research & Public Policy, CCIB. “It’s vital that we measure this progress and strengthen the evidence based on Indigenous economic performance. By doing so, we can continue to tell the stories of Indigenous participation, highlighting the success stories alongside the remaining obstacles.” The tracker explores demographic distribution and provides business outlooks, including anticipated obstacles. It also shows a detailed overview of trade activity, such as the value of cross-border sales and purchases and the expected impact of tariffs. “At the Canadian Chamber’s Business Data Lab, our focus is on democratizing access to high-quality economic data so organizations can better understand the economy and make informed decisions,” said Patrick Gill, VP, Business Data Lab, Canadian Chamber of Commerce. “This collaboration with CCIB is another example of our mission in action — equipping Indigenous partners with the tools and insights they need to tell their own stories and showcase the growing role of Indigenous businesses in Canada’s economy at a time of heightened trade uncertainty, major project development, and economic change.” Updated quarterly, the tracker aims to highlight the growing footprint of Indigenous businesses in Canada. “This work helps close important data gaps on Indigenous business activity and trade,” said Jasleen Kaur Trehan, Economist, Business Data Lab, Canadian Chamber of Commerce. “By combining Statistics Canada data with insights from Indigenous businesses, the dashboard provides a sharper, more nuanced picture of how Indigenous entrepreneurs are navigating trade pressures and where opportunities exist to support continued growth. At a time of heightened uncertainty, having access to this kind of granular, community-informed data isn’t just useful, it’s essential.” To begin exploring the tracker, visit CCIB’s website at www.ccib.ca/research/indigenous-business-insights-tracker/



GET CONNECTED IN 2026!

Upcoming Event Calendar



Chamber on Tap

Thursday, June 11th, 2026
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Guests: Young Entrepreneur Panel, and
Tenielle Bogdan, Senior Director,
Programs & Partnerships,
Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce
Join us at The Armoury Brewing Company
702 – 102nd Street, North Battleford
Tickets/Registration Required.
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Nominate a Business Today!



The 32nd Battlefords Business Excellence Awards (BBEX) is now open for nominations. This is a two-stage process, where the initial nomination is provided on-line, and we then send the category application form to the nominee/ business for their part to answer questions and complete the nomination process.

Can you think of someone who deserves recognition for their work and contributions? Please consider submitting a nomination (or as many as you like) today in any of the following categories:

- New Business Venture Award
- Micro Business Award
- Community Contribution Award
- Young Entrepreneur Award
- Agricultural or Agri-Business Award
- Members’ Choice Award
- Heather Guthrie Customer Service Star Award (Individual/Employee)
- Impact Award (Non-Profit, Not-for-Profit, or Charity)
- Heritage Award

A description of each category is on the nomination page for your review if you have questions. Here is a link to the Nominations page of the BBEX website: <https://battlefordscc.awardify.io/nominations> to get directly to the nomination page.

The public nominations close on June 18th, 2026. The individual or business has until July 23rd, 2026, to submit the entirety of the application package.