

VOICE OF BUSINESS

Connecting Voices. Building Business

Phone: 306-445-6226

Find us on Facebook

www.battlefordschamber.com

P.O. Box 1000

North Battleford SK S9A 3E6



BATTLEFORDS & DISTRICT
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Connecting voices. Building business.

A Reason We Need a Strong Chamber Network – Advocacy 101

March 16th, 2023, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Canadian Heritage introduced a motion at the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage related to the ongoing review of Bill C-18 that, if adopted, would pose a serious threat to the privacy of Canadians and to their rights to hold and express opinions on public issues.

On March 19, the Honourable Perrin Beatty, President & CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce sent a letter addressed to the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage and Minister Pablo Rodriguez, to address the Canadian Chamber's concerns with the motion.

"The motion would compel companies to provide internal and external communications related to their engagement in public debate on Bill C-18. To be clear, the concern is not about C-18 itself or the companies currently debating its merits with your committee: it is about the preconditions for free discourse in our democracy", his letter reads.

"In addition, adopting it would put a chill on the legitimate work of thousands of associations, chambers of commerce, unions, social action groups, not-for-profits, and private enterprises across the country. It is impossible to know who the next target of this type of measure will be. We urge the committee to avoid setting a precedent that would make it easier for future governments of any political stripe to attempt to intimidate its opponents in this way."

The Chamber then went on to list at least 5 of its most serious concerns with the motion.

Once the letter was provided to the committee, the Chamber network across the country was activated through a "Call to Action" on the matter. Based on the intervention of the Chambers, the Committee amended the proposed motion in order to protect the privacy of individual Canadians. However, the Chamber still has concerns that the new wording will expose associations and third-party organizations, including Chambers. In this particular case, many Chambers may not have been involved in providing advice to Google and Meta on their response to C-18, in the Chamber's view it still represents a worrying precedent whereby private exchanges on research, polling, advocacy strategy and tactics may be subject to indiscriminate disclosure to governments in the future.

Mr. Beatty concluded his letter by reiterating to the committee "that every individual and every organisation in Canada has the right to decide whether it supports Bill C-18 or any other piece of legislation that comes before Parliament. They should be free to do so without fear of retribution for their views."

Our collective voices can really make a difference.

Context: Proposed Bill C-18 is "The Online News Act" which would ensure that major digital platforms fairly compensate news publishers for their content and enhance fairness in the Canadian digital news marketplace, including the sustainability of independent local news businesses. The tech-giants currently before the Committee have threatened to block news from Canadians on their social-media platforms if such a bill is passed.



Calendar of Events:



Chamber on Tap:

Budget 2023:

Northwest Perspective

Thursday, March 30th, 2023

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Discovery Co-op Café

9800 Territorial Drive, N.B.

Guests: Hon. Jeremy Cockrill

Ryan Domotor, MLA

Upcoming Chamber on Tap dates

-April 27th, 2023 at Blend Riverside (@ NBGCC)

-June 1st, 2023 at Discovery Co-op Café

Sponsored By:



BATTLEFORD FURNITURE

9th Chamber Business Golf Challenge



Growth That Works for Everyone:

Saskatchewan Chamber Reacts to Provincial Budget

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce (SCC) is pleased with many aspects of the recent Provincial Budget but it does fall short in addressing a few priorities that are important to our members.

A survey of SCC members identified several priorities heading into this budget. They included:

1.) Overall fiscal responsibility; 2.) Municipal/rural Infrastructure investments including highways; 3.) Health care spending increase; 4.) Education spending increase; 5.) PST Reform; 6.) Corporation Tax reductions, and 7.) Internet/broadband support

The SCC is very pleased to note there are no new taxes or tax increases. However, the budget misses the mark in two key areas. The 2023/24 Provincial Budget does not address PST and Corporate Tax reform. Saskatchewan is one of only three provinces still taxing most businesses on their inputs through the application of the PST.

This has a detrimental effect on competitiveness, investment, and growth. In addition, the Government's decision not to continue the temporary freeze of the Small Business Tax rate at 0% will further increase the cost of doing business here.

"Business is the driver of Saskatchewan's strengthening fiscal position," said Prabha Ramaswamy, CEO of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce. "It is critical to address PST and Corporate Tax reform to enhance competitiveness."

Fortunately, the Provincial Government has delivered on several of SCC member priorities including a \$1 billion surplus that will be used to pay down operating debt. The Government is making the biggest investment in infrastructure ever at \$3.7 B - \$543.4 m over last year - a 17% increase. For the Saskatchewan business community this supports job creation and opportunities in the province. The \$5 million investment in newcomer settlement and immigration is another important step in solving the province's labour crisis.

The Government is also increasing its investment in health care and education which will help improve the quality of lives for our residents. This will also aid in the attraction of much-needed skilled labour.

The Saskatchewan business community wants growth that works for everyone, including our private businesses. The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce is committed to working with government to develop a competitive tax regime that includes incentives and reduces regulatory burden.

find your voice!

Businesses join the Chamber of Commerce for many reasons, but they all believe in the business community of the Battlefords. This group of new Chamber members are a broad representation across sectors, some are new businesses while others have had a change in ownership, and yet others join to offer/share the #1 employee benefits plan in Canada with their staff and families.

NEW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERS:

Local Members:

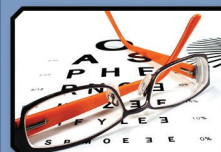
- ◆ **Country Cuisine**
 - 2401 – 99th Street, North Battleford
 - 306-446-4555
- ◆ **Pursuit Enterprises**
 - NW 14-44-16 W3rd, North Battleford
 - 306-481-6460
- ◆ **Craig's Boutique**
 - 1291C – 100th Street, North Battleford
 - 306-481-5534
- ◆ **Montana's BBQ & Bar**
 - 604 Carlton Trail, North Battleford
 - 306-808-2600
- ◆ **Milbanke Flowers**
 - 1111 – 100th Street, North Battleford
 - 306-445-4444
- ◆ **Ohso Vape Co.**
 - 156 – 22nd Street, Battleford
 - 306-307-1714
- ◆ **Doug's Paint Shop**
 - 1561 – 100th Street, North Battleford
 - 306-445-7775
- ◆ **Zel Safety Services**
 - 1303A - 9800 Territorial Drive, Co-op Mall, North Battleford
 - 306-480-1259

Regional Members:

- ◆ **Edam Early Learning Centre Daycare**
 - 1523 – 1st Avenue, Edam
 - 306-397-0004
- ◆ **Opensail International Inc.**
 - #700 – 750 Spadina Cres. E., Saskatoon
 - 306-500-3300

CANADA'S #1

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Aaron Cadrin | 306.446.8080

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