



## Canadian and Atlantic Chambers launch *10 Ways to Build a Canada that Wins*

**For Immediate Release**

**Windsor, Nova Scotia, February 05, 2018** - A strong and prosperous Canada depends on business growth, but businesses are grappling with daunting challenges at home and abroad. To help them compete and grow, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the Atlantic Chamber of Commerce (ACC) released [\*10 Ways to Build a Canada that Wins\*](#) today. *10 Ways* provides businesses, decision-makers and government with a series of clear priorities and objectives that, if addressed, will give Canada a competitive edge, improve productivity and grow our economy.

"While the global economy remains risky, there are still tremendous opportunities for business growth, but we need to work together to create the conditions to support business growth and build a more prosperous economy for all Canadians," said the Hon. Perrin Beatty, President and CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. "*10 Ways* identifies the ways in which business, government and others can work together to improve Canada's public policy environment and create the conditions for businesses across the country to flourish."

*10 Ways* touches on a range of key issues, including attracting business investment, supporting SMEs, providing opportunities for business development among Indigenous peoples, encouraging innovation and fixing Canada's trade-enabling infrastructure.

"In partnership with the network of chambers of commerce across Canada, the ACC is proud to support the promotion of 10 key principles that will support prosperity for everyone," said Sheri Somerville, CEO of the ACC. "Our leaders need to continue to support actions that will allow businesses to compete globally and make our country location to locate and create new jobs."

The Atlantic Chamber of Commerce represents the common concerns of businesses from communities, small and large, across Atlantic Canada. Its purpose is to work with local and national governments to create a supportive regulatory and fiscal environment that will encourage entrepreneurs to invest locally. The Atlantic region continues to experience below average economic and population growth, the highest average age and the highest taxes in the country. Looking to the future, the Atlantic provinces need to refocus on creating globally competitive business conditions and aggressively pursue opportunities for trade for which our provinces are strategically located.

This annual list by the chamber network is particularly important given the growing pressures on businesses faced with uncertainty around the ongoing NAFTA negotiations, additional layers of regulation, rapid technological change and low capital investment. *10 Ways* not only frames the necessary public discourse around the best ways to enable Canadian businesses to grow, it provides the Canadian Chamber of Commerce with the strategic direction for its policy and advocacy efforts throughout 2018, supported by the Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade across the Atlantic region.



# 10 Ways to Build a Canada that Wins in 2018

## 1. Make Canada a Magnet for Business Investment

We need a policy environment in Canada that makes this country the preferred location for businesses to invest, employ, export from and grow.

## 2. Ensure a Globally Competitive North America

The growth potential of Canadian business depends not only rely on our domestic policy environment, but also on our access to business opportunities and capabilities across North America and around the world. We need to expand and streamline business access to resources as we eliminate barriers to trade.

## 3. Make Canada an Agri-food Powerhouse

Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector has a strong and well-earned reputation. In order to make Canada a global leader in high-value food production and exports, we need a national vision and clear objectives for an agri-food cluster development strategy, a supportive regulatory environment and an increased capacity to export.

## 4. Develop Agile Workforce Strategies

Agile workforce policies are vital in ensuring Canadian businesses can acquire the skill sets they need to compete and grow. To this end, Canadian businesses need easy access to comprehensive market information and to programs and policies that support diversity and labour mobility. Our workforce must also have access to formative and life-long learning opportunities in essential skills and basic science, technical, engineering and business education. Only then can we attract the best and brightest from all over the world.

## 5. Make all of Canada an Export Gateway

Trade is the linchpin of the Canadian economy. We can enhance the competitiveness and growth potential of Canadian businesses by building on the gateways and corridors modeled to make strategic, sustainable and long-term improvements in Canada's trade infrastructure. It is time for us to create a single, unified and efficient trade-enabling network.

## 6. Improve Regulatory Efficiency, Achieve Regulatory Alignment, and Ensure the Unrestricted Movement of Goods and People across Canada

The elimination of trade barriers and unnecessary regulatory differences across Canada could add as much as \$130 billion to Canada's GDP by freeing trade and commerce within our own internal markets. Through incentives for regulators, we can concentrate on the big picture: nationally aligned standards and regulations that work for all, instead of a patchwork of regional rules.

## 7. Help SMEs Trade and Grow

Canada's economic prospects depend in large part on the vitality and growth potential of small- and medium-sized enterprises. We can support our SMEs through tax policies that reward entrepreneurship, regulatory policies that take their reality into account and by giving them easier access to government contracts and international opportunities.

## **8. Provide Opportunities for Business Development to Support Self-determination for Indigenous Peoples**

The economic and social benefits of encouraging greater and more inclusive participation by Indigenous peoples in employment and business development opportunities are shared by all Canadians. This includes a supportive tax and regulatory environment, access to new business opportunities, government programs that provide meaningful supports, and ready-access to education and training, leading to employment, apprenticeship and mentorship programs.

## **9. Make Canada a Global Innovator**

Canada can retain its status as an advanced economy only if its businesses are world leaders in the development and application of new and advanced technologies. Canadian businesses need to be connected to the broadband infrastructure, research expertise and technology resources they require. Intellectual property and other regulatory regimes also have to be supportive and allow for easier R&D, development and, ultimately, commercialization.

## **10. Make Canada the World's One-stop Shop for Green Resources and Technology**

The application of new technologies and production processes is vital if Canada is to meet its goals for reducing carbon emissions and improving the quality of its environment while at the same time sustaining economic growth. This requires support for resource-based technology business clusters and the incentives and support programs Canadian technology companies need to be able to do business with global resource companies and engineering and procurement firms.

### **About the Canadian Chamber of Commerce**

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce is the vital connection between business and the federal government. It helps shape public policy and decision-making to the benefit of businesses, communities and families across Canada with a network of over 450 chambers of commerce and boards of trade, representing 200,000 businesses of all sizes in all sectors of the economy and in all regions. News and information are available at [Chamber.ca](http://Chamber.ca) or follow us on Twitter [@CdnChamberofCom](https://twitter.com/CdnChamberofCom)

### **About the Atlantic Chamber of Commerce**

As the strong, credible and unified voice for business influences an environment where business in Atlantic Canada succeeds, the Atlantic Chamber of Commerce (ACC) represents more than 16,000 businesses through its network of 93 chambers of commerce and boards of trade in the four Atlantic provinces. ACC is a catalyst to influence, educate and advocate on policy related issues to support business, deliver high-value services and opportunities to our members, and to support and promote initiatives that contribute to sustainable economic growth in the region.

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