

February 13, 2017

The Honorable Christina Gray
Minister of Labour
Office of the Minister
107 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Gray,


On behalf of our member businesses, representing the voice of over 10,000 owners and employees across Southwestern Alberta, I have enclosed for your consideration our policy regarding the need to measure the effects of increases to minimum wages in Alberta as our province pursues more equitable compensation policies.

With the scheduled increases to Alberta's minimum wage, employees across the province are soon going to be the benefactors of the highest minimum wage mark in the country. The rapidity and scope of this increase presents a troubling reality for local businesses, especially as the province faces further retractions in its already contracted GDP. Employers are concerned that these increases will threaten their ability to remain viable.

The Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce specifically asks that the Government of Alberta delay further increases until a system of metrics has been implemented to measure the effects of wage increases since October 2015, and adopt an alternative plan to the scheduled 2017 wage increase which takes its guidance from the data gathered, balancing social goals with the needs of business to remain competitive

Will you, as a representative of the same voices that we champion, lend your support to these policies in your capacity as a Member of the Legislative Assembly? Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this request. If you would like to arrange a meeting to further discuss these issues, please contact Karla Pynch (403-327-1586) or by emailing office@lethbridgechamber.com

Sincerely,



Mr. Harry Gross, CGA, CA, CPA
President
Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce

cc: The Honorable Shannon Phillips, Minister of the Environment and Parks
Ms. Maria Fitzpatrick, Member of Legislative Assembly, Lethbridge East