



LETHBRIDGE
CHAMBER of COMMERCE®

News Release

Getting Southern Albertan Goods to Market

For Immediate Release

Lethbridge, Alberta, February 29, 2017 – The Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce is asking the both the Provincial and Federal government to consider transportation infrastructure in Southern Alberta when making large investments. In order to encourage economic growth and increase our region's ability to compete internationally we need improvements to rail, roads, and the local airport.

As our city soars past the 100k mark, our manufacturing and agri-food sectors continue to grow. However, there is a growing concern amongst the business community that opportunities are going to be missed if we don't invest now in expanding our infrastructure capacity.

"Lethbridge, and the surrounding region, are well positioned for growth," explained Harry Gross, President of the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce. "There's a growing international demand for high-quality foods and agri-food products and there's a very real possibility that our region could become a global leader in the distribution of our products to local, regional, and international markets. One of the biggest challenges standing in the way of this is our transportation infrastructure. There are some investments we can make today so that we can be ready for tomorrow."

Businesses looking to set up shop or expand their operations in Lethbridge have to calculate what their costs will be to produce the product, and what the cost of getting those goods to market will be. The Chamber of Commerce is asking for investment in the following three areas of infrastructure to increase our competitiveness and access to markets:

- The Federal Government to work with rail operators in the region to ensure open and fair access to rail transportation by reducing regulations.
- The Provincial Government to invest in Highway 3 to open up more east-west traffic from the B.C. border to Highway 1.
- The Provincial Government to help create a plan for growing our local airports so that the region will have more access to diverse markets.

"Investing in these projects would be a win for both the Provincial and Federal Governments," said Gross. "Both administrations are looking for ways to boost economic growth and diversify our economy in a short period of time. Southern Alberta is open for business and ready to grow."

The full Policy from the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce can be found online at:

<http://www.lethbridgechamber.com/policies>

The Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce

The Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce is *The Voice of Business*, promoting and enhancing a healthy economic and social environment in our region by serving the interests of business. We represent over 750 businesses and over 10,000 employees in the Lethbridge area.

For more information on this initiative, please contact Peter Casurella at 403-327-1586 or by emailing policy@lethbridgechamber.com