

July 18, 2017

Hon. Ahmed D. Hussen
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Hussen:

On May 27, 2017, the Alberta Chambers of Commerce (ACC) held its 79th Annual General Meeting and Policy Session. During that meeting, two policy resolutions specific to your mandate were approved on issues concerning the 24 000 businesses the 125 community chambers of our network represent.

More than 95% of the businesses our members represent are small and medium-sized. The policy resolution attached for your consideration directly represents the views of small business in Alberta.

Alberta businesses benefit from being able to hire the most capable and qualified individuals from around the world. However, our members believe there are two challenges to the attraction and retention of highly-talented, highly-skilled and innovative immigrants to Canada. Currently, potential new Canadians who have an interest in coming to Canada and starting new businesses as entrepreneurs are limited in their ability to do so because there is no pathway to permanent residency. Ensuring that international students who come to Canada to study at our world-class post-secondary institutions can immediately obtain a work permit upon the completion of their program and can quickly begin contributing to Canadian society if they so choose. By reducing these barriers, businesses will be able to ensure that they can continue to build their competitive advantage by utilizing the skills and talents of the world's best and brightest.

If you have any questions regarding the attached policy or to arrange a meeting, please contact our President & CEO, Ken Kobly at 780-425-4180 Ext. 5 or kkobly@abchamber.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CD', is positioned above the name and title of Chris Dugan.

Chris Dugan
Chair

Ken Kobly, FCPA, FCGA
President and CEO

Enclosures

July 18, 2017

Hon. Amarjeet Sohi
Minister of Infrastructure and Communities
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Sohi:

We'd like to thank you for your attendance at our Annual General Meeting on May 26, 2017, and for bringing greetings on behalf of the Government of Canada.

At that meeting, you responded to a question regarding the relocation of the Case Processing Centre in Vegreville, Alberta. Following your presentation during the ACC's Policy Session, the attending members approved the attached resolution regarding the federal government's site selection process. We encourage you to reconsider the relocation of the CPC in Vegreville until the resolutions recommendations, including clear performance criteria for federal facilities in rural community and an economic impact analysis have been developed. Moreover, we believe these practices should become the standard for the site selection of all federal offices.

This position has the support of our federation of 125 community chambers representing 24 000 business in Alberta. More than 95% of those businesses are small and medium-sized. The policy resolution attached for your consideration directly represents the views of small business in Alberta.

If you have any questions regarding the attached policy or to arrange a meeting, please contact our President & CEO, Ken Kobly at 780-425-4180 Ext. 5 or kkobly@abchamber.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CD', is positioned above the typed name of Chris Dugan.

Chris Dugan
Chair

Ken Kobly, FCPA, FCGA
President and CEO

Enclosures

July 18, 2017

Hon. Brian Mason
Minister of Transportation, Government House Leader
320 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Mason:

On May 26, 2017, the Alberta Chambers of Commerce (ACC) held its 79th Annual General Meeting and Policy Session. During that meeting, three policy resolutions specific to your mandate were adopted on issues concerning the 24 000 businesses the 125 community chambers of our network represent.

Members from across Alberta regularly identify transportation corridors which, if upgraded, will allow businesses to increase their growth, create new jobs, and improve the efficiency with which we move goods through the province. This year, chambers developed two new policies which, together, build a strong case for twinning Highway 3 in southern Alberta. We encourage you and your staff to consider this ambitious project as critical to the prosperity of Alberta's southern region and the province.

During the AGM, our members also renewed the federation's commitment to the efficient development of infrastructure. We continue to advocate for the securing and planning of transportation / utility corridors as a means of reducing the overall costs of critical infrastructure projects, planning to for future growth, and increasing the speed and ease with which energy, road, rail, and other utility infrastructure is developed.

We aspire to continue our positive working relationship and would be happy to discuss these or any of our policies relevant to your ministry. If you have any questions or would like to arrange a meeting, please contact our President & CEO, Ken Kobly at 780-425-4180 Ext. 5 or kkobly@abchamber.ca.

Sincerely,



Chris Dugan
Chair

Ken Kobly
President and CEO

Enclosures

cc: Barry Day, Deputy Minister, Transportation
cc: Shannon Flint, Deputy Minister, Infrastructure

July 18, 2017

Hon. Christina Gray
Minister of Labour and Democratic Renewal
107 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
Canada T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Gray:

On May 26, 2017, the Alberta Chambers of Commerce (ACC) held its 79th Annual General Meeting and Policy Session. During that meeting, four policy resolutions specific to your mandate were adopted on issues concerning the 24 000 businesses the 125 community chambers of our network represent.

More than 95% of the businesses our members represent are small and medium-sized. The policy resolution attached for your consideration directly represents the views of small business in Alberta.

Our members continue to voice their concerns regarding the ongoing changes to employment and labour legislative framework in Alberta. These changes, which increase the costs of hiring new workers, delay business growth, and discourage investments in the province continue to push Alberta into competitive disadvantage. In effect, Alberta's labour market environment is shifting in a manner and to such a degree that businesses are facing growing barriers to creating new opportunities for employee growth and to contributing to the growth of their communities.

Without reasonable and informed opportunities to provide input into the legislative processes prior to changes being made, the business community is increasingly feeling isolated as a legitimate partner in the prosperity of Alberta.

We have attached these policies for your consideration and would appreciate an opportunity to connect with you to discuss them. If you have any questions or to arrange a meeting, please contact our President & CEO, Ken Kobly at 780-425-4180 Ext.5 or kkobly@abchamber.ca.

Sincerely,



Chris Dugan
Chair

Ken Kobly
President and CEO

Enclosures
cc: Jeff Parr, Deputy Minister, Labour

July 18, 2017

Hon. Deron Bilous
Minister of Economic Development and Trade
425 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Minister Bilous:

On May 26, 2017 the Alberta Chambers of Commerce (ACC) held its 79th Annual General Meeting and Policy Session. During that meeting, three policy resolutions specific to your mandate were adopted on issues concerning the 24 000 businesses the 125 community chambers of our network represent.

More than 95% of the businesses our members represent are small and medium-sized. The policy resolutions attached for your consideration directly represent the views of small business in Alberta.

These resolutions represent ongoing concerns our federation has raised regarding trade barriers in Alberta. While Alberta continues to move towards economic strength and job growth, it is vital that these barriers, which slow business growth and inhibit the creation of new jobs, be addressed. We have discussed many of these topics with you in the past, including the need for alignment on food safety and inspection processes with the federal government and other provinces. We would request that you provide us with an update on these issues and consider the revised recommendations of our members as new ideas for addressing these evolving issues.

We appreciated the opportunity to have a candid and fruitful meeting with Mr. Jason Krips, Deputy Minister, this week at our annual Strategy Planning session. Working in tandem, we believe that the chamber network and the Government of Alberta can develop effective and tangible positive outcomes for Alberta's economy.

We aspire to continue our positive working relationship with you and your department, and would now appreciate an opportunity to connect with you directly to discuss how we can work together to meet the needs of our shared constituents and receive your response to our attached policies. If you have any questions or would like to arrange a meeting, please contact our President & CEO, Ken Kobly at 780-425-4180 Ext. 5 or kkobly@abchamber.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CD', is positioned above the typed name of Chris Dugan.

Chris Dugan
Chair

Ken Kobly
President and CEO

Enclosures

cc: Jason Krips, Deputy Minister, Economic Development and Trade

July 18, 2017

Hon. Joe Ceci
Minister of Finance, President of Treasury Board
323 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Ceci:

On May 27, 2016, the Alberta Chambers of Commerce (ACC) held its 79th Annual General Meeting and Policy Session. During that meeting, two policy resolutions specific to your mandate were adopted on issues concerning the 24 000 businesses the 125 community chambers of our network represent.

More than 95% of the businesses our members represent are small and medium-sized. The policy resolutions attached for your consideration directly represent the views of small business in Alberta.

Our members also identified a new idea which would support the transition small and medium businesses are making to a 'greener operation'. A program allowing lending institutions to provide 0% financing for green retrofits was proposed in your government's election platform in 2015 as part of its discussions around a greenhouse gas emissions strategy. We believe it is the right time to leverage funds from the Climate Leadership Plan to make this proposal a reality.

Our members have approved a new budget policy to inform the development of next year's provincial budget. Consistent with our past practice, we will be using this document to develop a submission which you can expect to see in the fall.

We aspire to continue our positive working relationship by meeting with you to discuss these policies. To arrange a meeting, please contact our President & CEO, Ken Kobly at 780-425-4180 Ext. 5 or kkobly@abchamber.ca.

Sincerely,



Chris Dugan
Chair

Ken Kobly
President and CEO

Enclosures

cc: Lorna Rosen, Deputy Minister, Treasury Board and Finance
cc: Eric Denhoff, Deputy Minister, Alberta Climate Change Office

July 18, 2017

Hon. Margaret Ellen McQuaig-Boyd
Minister of Energy
324 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister McQuaig-Boyd:

On May 27, 2017, the Alberta Chambers of Commerce (ACC) held its 79th Annual General Meeting and Policy Session. During that meeting, a new policy resolution specific to your mandate was adopted on an issue concerning the 24 000 businesses the 125 community chambers of our network represent.

More than 95% of the businesses our members represent are small and medium-sized. The policy resolution attached for your consideration directly represents the views of small business in Alberta.

With the federal government's recent release of the Expert Panel on the Modernization of the National Energy Board's final report, the future of Alberta's energy industry is at a critical point. We applaud you for your support of a national regulatory process which supports responsible energy sector growth. We would also comment your continued support for the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion project.

Chambers across the country have been diligent to speak out in favour of a transparent and predictable process which will facilitate the development of effective infrastructure for moving our energy products to new markets. We believe it is vital that the provincial government and Alberta's chamber federation continue to voice their support and find ways to collaborate in collective advocacy on expanding market access. Our members have reaffirmed our commitment to seeing this project complete and this resolution is attached for your consideration.

If you have any questions regarding the attached policy or to arrange a meeting, please contact our President & CEO, Ken Kobly at 780-425-4180 Ext. 5 or kkobly@abchamber.ca.

Sincerely,



Chris Dugan
Chair

Ken Kobly
President and CEO

Enclosures

cc: Coleen Volk, Deputy Minister, Energy

July 18, 2016

Hon. Oneil Carlier
Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
229 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Minister Carlier:

On May 26, 2017, the Alberta Chambers of Commerce (ACC) held its 79th Annual General Meeting and Policy Session. During that meeting, two policy resolutions specific to your mandate were adopted on issues concerning the 24 000 businesses the 125 community chambers of our network represent.

More than 95% of the businesses our members represent are small and medium-sized. The policy resolutions attached for your consideration directly represent the views of small business in Alberta.

Three years ago, our members created policy resolutions in response to the Province's changing land stewardship legislation. Those resolutions' recommendations call for measures which aim to protect the rights of landowners and ensure the future of Alberta's prime agriculture lands. While the Province has suspended the progress of the land-use framework, the chamber network would like to see these protections enshrined in Alberta's legislation to ensure that any future planning, which promotes the prosperity and security of all Albertans, is as successful and balanced as possible.

We aspire to continue our positive working relationship and would be happy to discuss these or any of our policies relevant to your ministry. If you have any questions or would like to arrange a meeting, please contact our President & CEO, Ken Kobly at 780-425-4180 Ext. 5 or kkobly@abchamber.ca.

Sincerely,



Chris Dugan
Chair

Ken Kobly
President and CEO

Enclosures

cc: Bev Yee, Deputy Minister, Agriculture and Forestry
cc: Hon. Shannon Phillips, Minister, Environment and Parks
cc: Chris Spytz, Manager, Parks Land-Use Framework

July 18, 2017

Hon. Patricia A. Hajdu
Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Hajdu:

On May 27, 2017, the Alberta Chambers of Commerce (ACC) held its 79th Annual General Meeting and Policy Session. During that meeting, a policy resolution specific to your mandate was renewed on an issue concerning the 24 000 businesses the 125 community chambers of our network represent.

More than 95% of the businesses our members represent are small and medium-sized. The policy resolution attached for your consideration directly represents the views of small business in Alberta.

When employers have trouble finding key workers with specialized skills, they rely on programs which allow them to access employees from out side Canada. Programs that allow this flexibility for Canadian businesses help Canada to remain competitive globally and ensure these businesses are able to hire other Canadian workers. These important programs have a common element in that they require a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) to ensure that these jobs are not withheld from a ready and capable Canadian worker. Programs which require LMIA's are often critical to business as they are typically only used when labour demands are high and appropriate workers are difficult to find. Given this, it is important that the LMIA process, while important, is applied fairly, consistently, and in a way which does not deter employers who are in desperate need of crucial employees. Our attached policy outlines a critical shortcoming of the LMIA which we hope you will consider and address to ensure that stability and fairness is achieved in balancing and that programs intended to help businesses succeed are able to accomplish their intended goals.

If you have any questions regarding the attached policy or to arrange a meeting, please contact our President & CEO, Ken Kobly at 780-425-4180 Ext. 5 or kkobly@abchamber.ca.

Sincerely,



Chris Dugan
Chair

Ken Kobly
President and CEO

Enclosures

July 18, 2017

Hon. Richard Feehan
Minister of Indigenous Relations
104 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Feehan:

On May 26, 2017, the Alberta Chambers of Commerce (ACC) held its 79th Annual General Meeting and Policy Session. During that meeting, one policy resolution specific to your mandate was adopted on an issue concerning the 24 000 businesses the 125 community chambers of our network represent.

In Alberta, Indigenous populations represent the largest untapped labour force in the province. With close to half of all Indigenous Albertans under the age of 25 (compared with 30% of non-Indigenous demographics), businesses are realizing that connecting, training, and equipping Indigenous workers with the skills they need work and succeed in Alberta's growing economy is essential to their own sustained prosperity. The Province should take steps to help connect the needs of these Indigenous groups with those of business through a coordinated labour force strategy. The attached resolution outlines our federations ideas regarding such a strategy.

We aspire to develop a positive working relationship with you and would be happy to discuss these or any of our policies relevant to your ministry. If you have any questions or would like to arrange a meeting, please contact our President & CEO, Ken Kobly at 780-425-4180 Ext. 5 or kkobly@abchamber.ca.

Sincerely,



Chris Dugan
Chair

Ken Kobly
President and CEO

Enclosures
cc: Donavon Young, Deputy Minister, Indigenous Relations

July 18, 2017

Hon. Shannon Phillips
Minister of Environment and Parks, Minister Responsible for the Climate Change Office
208 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Minister Phillips:

On May 26, 2017, the Alberta Chambers of Commerce (ACC) held its 79th Annual General Meeting and Policy Session. During that meeting, five policy resolutions specific to your mandate were adopted on issues concerning the 24 000 businesses the 125 community chambers of our network represent.

More than 95% of the businesses our members represent are small and medium-sized. The policy resolutions attached for your consideration directly represent the views of small business in Alberta.

Alberta's businesses have acknowledged the need for a strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Reductions must balance economics with environment in such a way as to support a holistic prosperity for Albertans well into the future. As the Province's Climate Leadership Plan continues to unfold, our members note some critical steps which should be taken to ensure we maintain this balance. These steps include supporting emissions-intensive, trade-exposed sectors and incorporating increased flexibility so that businesses can adapt and support the goal of the plan: to reduce carbon emissions.

A key component of the Climate Leadership Plan is taking advantage of opportunities in sustainable, green industries in which Alberta has a competitive edge. A key industry, forestry, continues to grow in a globally leading manner but requires strategic action on behalf of the Province to address key issues which are holding back its potential. These issues include addressing the growing Pine Beetle population, ensuring that effective and informed practices are used in the development of Alberta's species at risk management plans, and capitalizing on opportunities such as the use and adaptation of post-consumer wood products. Addressing these barriers and seizing these opportunities will result in a sustainable prosperity which can maintain the balance between economic and environmental sustainability, creating new green jobs and positioning Alberta with a stronger competitive edge.

We would welcome and appreciate an opportunity to meet with you and discuss these issues. If you have any questions or would like to arrange a meeting, please contact our President & CEO, Ken Kobly at 780-425-4180 Ext. 5 or kkobly@abchamber.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CD", is positioned above the typed name of Chris Dugan.

Chris Dugan
Chair

Ken Kobly
President and CEO

Enclosures

cc: André Corbould, Deputy Minister, Environment and Parks

July 18, 2017

Hon. Shaye Anderson
Minister of Municipal Affairs
132 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Minister Anderson:

On May 26, 2017 the Alberta Chambers of Commerce (ACC) held its 79th Annual General Meeting and Policy Session. During that meeting, one policy resolution specific to your mandate was adopted on an issue concerning the 24 000 businesses the 125 community chambers of our network represent.

While the most recent phase of changes to the Municipal Government Act have been enacted in Bill 8: *An Act to Strengthen Municipal Government*, our federation would like to express its perspective on recent changes and ideas for future considerations within the Municipal Government Act. The attached policy presents a variety of ideas further strengthening the act and, in some cases, present concern regarding changes presented in Bill 8.

We've also included our pre-existing policies on how our municipal governments can help build better communities. More than 95% of the businesses our members represent are small and medium-sized and would aspire to continue our positive working relationship with you and your department. With the interests of our shared constituents in mind we would appreciate an opportunity to connect with you directly to discuss how we can work together. If you have any questions or would like to arrange a meeting, please contact our President & CEO, Ken Kobly at 780-425-4180 Ext. 5 or kkobly@abchamber.ca.

Sincerely,



Chris Dugan
Chair

Ken Kobly
President and CEO

Enclosures
cc: Brad Pickering, Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs

July 18, 2017

Hon. Stephanie Veronica McLean
Minister of Service Alberta and Minister of Status of Women
103 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Minister McLean:

On May 26, 2017 the Alberta Chambers of Commerce (ACC) held its 79th Annual General Meeting and Policy Session. During that meeting, one policy resolutions specific to your mandate was adopted on an issue concerning the 24 000 businesses the 125 community chambers of our network represent.

More than 95% of the businesses our members represent are small and medium-sized. The policy resolutions attached for your consideration directly represent the views of small business in Alberta.

Alberta Registry Agents (ARA) are seeking to develop a modernization plan to enhance services, including online registry services to Albertans in conjunction with Service Alberta and other stakeholders. This modernization process is appealing to our members who believe it could reduce costs for businesses and individuals, create new jobs, and support the growth of Alberta's economy. Thus, Alberta's chamber federation has approved a new resolution calling on the Government of Alberta to support this modernization process and ensure the ARA's sustainability is maintained through a fair and equitable fee model.

We aspire to have a positive working relationship with you and your department, and would now appreciate an opportunity to connect with you directly to discuss how we can work together to meet the needs of our shared constituents. If you have any questions or would like to arrange a meeting, please contact our President & CEO, Ken Kobly at 780-425-4180 Ext. 5 or kkobly@abchamber.ca.

Sincerely,



Chris Dugan
Chair

Ken Kobly
President and CEO

Enclosures
cc: David Morhart, Deputy Minister, Service Alberta