

January 24, 2017

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

Dear Minister Ceci:

On behalf of 126 community chambers representing over 24,000 businesses across Alberta, the Alberta Chambers of Commerce (ACC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and input as part of your pre-budget consultations for Alberta Budget 2017-18. Our budget submission is enclosed for your consideration.

As Alberta's business community we share a common goal of creating prosperity for Albertans. To support this goal, our members believe the Alberta Budget 2017-18 should deliver on three key outcomes: first, it should outline an accountable pathway to balance Alberta's Budget. To ensure that our province can provide core services in the long term, we must cease borrowing to pay for operations today. Second, it must take steps to reduce the costs to do business and improve Alberta's attractiveness to investors, local and foreign. Finally, resources should be dedicated to eliminate barriers preventing business growth in high-opportunity sectors; identifying functional barriers and opportunities for growth would also be most effective if undertaken in collaboration with business and industry.

As always, we as a network remain open to working with you and your colleagues to support Alberta's fiscal competitiveness and business growth in the province. At your earliest convenience, please contact our President and CEO, Ken Kobly at 780.975.1659 or at kkobly@abchamber.ca so we can schedule a meeting.

Sincerely,



Sean Ballard
Chair



Ken Kobly
President and CEO

CC: Hon. Rachel Notley, Premier of Alberta
Hon. Deron Bilous, Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Government of Alberta

Enclosures