



February 13, 2016

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 128 member 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. Our budget submission is enclosed for your consideration.

Our submission presents recommendations drawn from policies developed by our members and approved by the ACC. The context of these recommendations is important. The external threats of dramatically reduced prices for our province’s key commodity limit the capacity of business to bear further cost increases as a result of policy and legislative change. In what is an already vulnerable business climate, further cost increases pose a serious risk to the sustainability of many businesses.

The Province faces similarly grave risks to its capacity to borrow and sustain spending. In the past, and confident in Alberta’s credit rating, the business community has supported borrowing to fund capital investments. With its fiscal advantages now deteriorating, it is clear that the limits of Alberta’s ability to borrow responsibly have been reached and cannot be extended to fund further operational deficits. Marginal decreases in operational spending must be on the table for the Province, as they are for businesses all across Alberta. By living within our means we position ourselves for long term prosperity.

Our business community is resilient and optimistic, and believes that Albertans have the tools to overcome all current challenges. We look forward to our upcoming meeting with you to discuss the opportunities available to address our fiscal challenges in a proactive and purposeful manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carman R. McNary'.

Carman R. McNary, Q.C.  
Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Kobly'.

Ken Kobly, FCPA, FCGA  
President and CEO

CC: Hon. Rachel Notley, Premier of Alberta