

December 16, 2015

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

Minister Bilous:

Thank you for joining us as keynote speaker during our Annual Fall Board Meeting. Our members appreciated the candid engagement and learning about your department's mandate. Your commitment to work as a good partner with business and to listen to them was well received by attendees.

As our partner, we would welcome an opportunity to meet with you early in the new year for a more focused discussion of opportunities to improve Alberta's business environment. In the context of our diversifying economy, the competitiveness of Alberta's firms in global markets is a top priority for our members. Attached for your consideration are a number of our member's policy recommendations to improve the competitiveness for firms operating in key economic sectors, including: *A Manufacturing and Processing Policy for Alberta* and *Energy and Oilsands Ambassador Secretariat Program*.

We would also like to find ways to work with you and your department on emerging policy issues such as the design and delivery of supports to be dedicated for small business through *Alberta's Climate Leadership Plan*. The collective leadership of the 128 community chambers in the province, and the 24 000 businesses they represent, is a resource that could inform the implementation of these supports. Ninety five per cent of these businesses are small and medium sized, and with their input we could work together to ensure the policy framework for delivering supports makes sense for small business.

Your engagement, reinforced by Deputy Minister Krips' open and candid facilitation of our evening event, signaled the business community is valued by your government. We look forward to hearing from you soon to confirm a meeting, and to ongoing collaboration in creating opportunities that keep business informed, engaged and connected as a resource for you and your department going forward.

Sincerely,



Carman R. McNary, Q.C.  
Chair



Ken Kobly, FCGA  
President and CEO

Thank you  
so much for  
your presentation  
Ken

CC: Deputy Minister Jason Krips, Economic Development and Trade