



JAN 31 2019

Ms. Shauna Feth
Mr. Ken Kobly
Alberta Chambers of Commerce
1808-10025 102A Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2Z2

Dear Ms. Feth and Mr. Kobly:

Thank you for your kind words on my appointment as Minister of Small Business and Export Promotion and for sharing the Alberta Chambers of Commerce's input and recommendations on the impact of government policies on Canadian businesses. Please excuse the delay in replying to you.

The Government of Canada is pursuing a regulatory reform agenda focused on supporting innovation and business investment. The goal is to make the Canadian regulatory system more agile, transparent, and responsive so that businesses across the country can explore and act on new opportunities, resulting in benefits for all Canadians.

Making it easier for business to operate and to access government services is a Government of Canada priority. The federal government is undertaking various modernizations that build on existing internal efforts and will collectively help improve the interactions of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with government so that they can refocus their resources on the success and growth of their business. Budget 2018 committed the government to conducting a suite of innovation-focused regulatory reviews, including three sectoral reviews focused on food, health, and transport; continued leadership on internal trade at the Canadian Free Trade Agreement Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table; and the development of an e-regulation system to engage Canadians on regulation to improve the transparency and efficiency of the overall rule-making process.

In close consultation with SME representatives, the Government of Canada developed a Cabinet Directive on Regulation (CDR) that became effective on September 1, 2018. It sets out the Government of Canada's expectations and requirements in the development, management, and review of federal regulations. With the CDR, the federal government continues its support for the One-for-One Rule under the *Red Tape Reduction Act*, requiring the elimination of at least one regulation for every new regulation. As announced in the Fall Economic Statement 2018, changes to the *Red Tape Reduction Act* will be implemented early this year to encourage better alignment with key

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trading partners and recognize the role that regulatory cooperation plays in lowering costs for Canadian businesses and consumers. The government will launch a full review of the Act by 2020 to seek more opportunities to reduce red tape for Canadian businesses.

To help ease the administrative burden even further, the Government of Canada launched the Innovation Canada web portal in January 2018. It is a one-stop shop where SMEs can find information on programs and services across all levels of government. We also launched a web portal for applying and managing the intellectual property (IP) assets of businesses through the Canadian Intellectual Property Office. To enable Canadian companies to better protect their IP assets, we are working on reciprocity for IP recognition under international treaties.

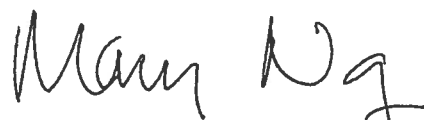
Canada is also developing the possibility for a SME's business number to be used as its digital identifier for all online government services, making it easier for businesses to access these services across different mobile devices by only needing to sign in once. Plus, instead of having businesses register with every province and territory, Canada is working with the provinces and territories toward a Multi-jurisdictional Registry Access Service to make it easier for businesses to register and operate in multiple jurisdictions across Canada.

In addition, the government has improved Canada Revenue Agency telephone services to help businesses on complex technical issues. We also now provide a liaison officer to provide in-person support to businesses.

I am always interested in working with small business stakeholder groups like the Alberta Chambers of Commerce. Mr. Jason Easton, my chief of staff, would be pleased to discuss with you further how the Government of Canada can best support businesses both in Alberta and across Canada. A staff member from my office will contact you to make the necessary arrangements.

Once again, thank you for writing, and please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Ng". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Mary" and "Ng" being capitalized and prominent.

The Honourable Mary Ng, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Bill Morneau, P.C., M.P.