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# Business





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## Message from the Chair



I am honoured to present to you the 2022 Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce's (SCC) Annual Report. The past year was one of renewal for the organization.

We saw a transition out of pandemic-related programs and back to more in-person events and activities. We also experienced a transition in our leadership team. The SCC's long-time CEO Steve McClellan announced he would be retiring in January of 2022. Steve provided strong and effective leadership throughout his 14-year tenure with the organization. SCC board members and I have appreciated the leadership and direction Steve brought to the Saskatchewan Chamber. His retirement was well-earned and much deserved. We wish to thank Steve for his hard work and dedication to Saskatchewan's Chamber network over the years,

and we wish Steve all the best in the next phase of his life.

Steve's retirement meant an opportunity for change and a fresh perspective at the Chamber. The SCC board embarked on an extensive search for the next CEO. In June, we were pleased to announce the appointment of Prabha Ramaswamy as the incoming SCC CEO. Prabha brought an extensive resume of leadership and transformation experience from her previous roles as CEO of Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan (WESK), and before that, the CEO of the Certified General Accountants Association. Prabha's vision and passion for business have made her a strong voice and champion for Saskatchewan business.

Over the past seven months, Prabha has played an important role in identifying the needs of our members as we emerge from the years impacted by the pandemic. We look forward to her leadership in this area as we move into 2023.

I want to thank our members for their ongoing support and commitment to the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce. For more than 102 years, we have been driven by one basic principle - to be the voice of the Saskatchewan business community. That principle hasn't changed - we continue to create new opportunities to support and advocate for businesses in Saskatchewan.

As this report closes the book on 2022, we look forward to 2023 with optimism and excitement for our members and the Saskatchewan business community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Evan Doecker'.

Evan Doecker  
Chair

## Message from the Chief Executive Officer



I am very pleased to deliver the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce 2022 Annual Report.

I was honoured to be selected as the incoming CEO for the Chamber in June of 2022. The last seven months with the Chamber have been informative, exciting, and invigorating.

I want to thank Elissa Laliberte for her strong leadership in managing the organization as interim CEO between the departure of Steve McLellan in February and my arrival in June of 2022.

Over the past year, the Chamber has been focused on supporting and advocating for members as they emerge, or begin to emerge, from the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have held member round table sessions to better understand the

needs of our members, we've moved back to holding largely in-person events for members to encourage connections and networking, and we've enhanced our advocacy efforts on behalf of our members, with both the federal and provincial governments.

As part of our advocacy efforts:

- In October, our policy resolution on Returning Carbon Tax Proceeds to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) was adopted by over 99 percent of delegates at the Canada Chamber policy debate.
- We provided feedback and five recommendations in response to the Federal Government's Discussion Paper on Options to Cap and Cut Oil and Gas Sector Greenhouse Gas Emissions to Achieve 2030 Goals and Net-Zero by 2050.
- We fought for Canadian farmers by calling on the government to scrap the implementation of a mandatory greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goal.
- In response to member concerns, we called on the Minister of Employment Social Development Canada (ESDC) to pay off the EI fund deficit (\$33.9B) in full instead of unreasonably increasing employer premiums.
- We also celebrated the implementation of the Labour Mobility and Fair Registration

Regulations with the provincial government, reducing administrative credential recognition barriers and allowing skilled workers to enter our workforce more quickly.

2022 also marked the year we got back to in-person events, including the 39th ABEX Awards, Chair's Invitational Dinner, and our Political Forum, to name a few.

I want to thank my predecessor Steve McClellan for his years of exemplary service to the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, as well as his leadership and dedication to Chamber members. I also want to thank our members for their commitment to the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce. Our ongoing mission remains to represent you to the best of our ability, and advocate to ensure Saskatchewan businesses are provided with the opportunities and resources they need to grow and flourish into the future. Finally, to our sponsors, thank you for your support. Our events would not be possible without you.

Our board of directors, Chamber team, and I look forward to working with you in the future, building a strong business community in Saskatchewan.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Prabha Ramaswamy".

Sincerely,  
Prabha Ramaswamy,  
CEO





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**Indigenous  
Engagement  
Charter**

## Indigenous Engagement Charter



The SCC is extremely proud of the Indigenous Engagement Charter and the work we have underway with our many partners in support of the Charter and its goals.

The Charter serves as a roadmap to provide businesses with the tools to achieve engagement, and assist the business community in demonstrating the role it must play in reconciliation.

The SCC is pleased to announce that the Indigenous Engagement Charter is completing its third year since its implementation in January 2020. As of December 2022, there were 59 signatories.

Through the Charter, the SCC offers a number of programs and initiatives (including Indigenous Awareness Training) which are open to both members and non-members, as well as an Indigenous Business Directory which provides the ability to connect with more than 500 Indigenous businesses.

In 2022 the SCC was pleased to offer exclusive Indigenous Engagement Charter Strategy development sessions for the Charter's Indigenous Engagement Charter Signatories.

The Indigenous Strategy development session provided participating individuals and businesses an opportunity to share knowledge on the importance of teaching Indigenous history and culture in the workplace. The session examined the way in which Indigenous Awareness Training created an inclusive workplace that helps to dispel common myths and misconceptions regarding Indigenous Peoples.

One session focused on Indigenous HR and Retention strategies allowing participants an opportunity to discuss how each company can attract, recruit, and retain Indigenous employees. In another session, participants learned how to begin an environmental scan, and about the types of questions to ask during the strategy development process. The fourth session focused on inclusive procurement policies and practices, as well as how to implement changes.

As well in 2022, the SCC met virtually with all Charter signatories and Charter investors to solicit feedback and plan for initiatives under the Charter in 2023 and forward. The feedback was extremely helpful and has laid the groundwork for Charter initiatives in 2023 and forward. Our goal at the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce is to ensure that the economic participation of Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Nations, and Indigenous owned-

businesses is enhanced in the Saskatchewan economy. We understand the social, economic, and cultural value and benefits that occur in our province when Indigenous People have an equal opportunity in the Saskatchewan economy.

The SCC believes all businesses in the province should and can commit to the principle of Indigenous engagement and economic reconciliation.

In 2023 we plan to implement a new tier system to make the charter more accessible for all Saskatchewan businesses to commit to the principle of Indigenous engagement.

We appreciate our Indigenous Engagement Charter Investors and signatories for their overall efforts to enhance Indigenous Engagement in Saskatchewan.

As well, a special thank you to our Indigenous Engagement Charter Investors:





## Indigenous Awareness Training



The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce Indigenous Awareness Training provides an overview of the history and culture of Indigenous peoples in Saskatchewan to allow for an inclusive and prosperous business community in our province.

Indigenous Awareness Training aligns with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Call to Action #57.

*57. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and*

*Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.*

### • Level 1: Myths & Misconceptions

This introductory session covers the history of the First Nation and Métis peoples in Saskatchewan from pre-contact to today, including Treaties and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

### • Level 2: Implementing an Indigenous Strategy & Hiring/Retention for Business

This advanced session covers how businesses can implement an Indigenous strategy as well as information on hiring and retaining Indigenous employees.

### • Level 3: Indigenous Protocols & Cultural Traditions in Saskatchewan

This advanced session provides an in depth look at how to interact with Indigenous senior officials, Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

All sessions were open to the public. A Certificate of Participation was provided upon completion of each level.

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## Indigenous Business Directory



One of the four key pillars of Indigenous Engagement is Indigenous procurement. Indigenous Engagement Charter Signatories are encouraged to procure supplies and services from Indigenous businesses through our comprehensive Indigenous Business Directory.

In 2020 the SCC launched a free Indigenous Business Directory on [saskchamber.com](https://saskchamber.com). Nearly 500 Indigenous businesses have been listed on the directory since its inception.

Business listings feature an online summary of essential information for your business. It has served as a powerful tool to help customers find Indigenous-owned businesses both online and in person.

**In 2020 the SCC launched a free Indigenous Business Directory on [saskchamber.com](https://saskchamber.com). Nearly 500 Indigenous businesses have been listed on the directory since its inception.**

Our directory has a feature which ensures that one's business name appears when people look for specific services, along with a built-in map that can be used to find the location of the business.

The Indigenous Business Directory is providing significant service to many. With more than 17,000 page views in 2022, it is the most viewed

page on the SCC website, surpassing even our home page!


The directory provides a lot of value as a place for the business community to connect with Indigenous-owned businesses and communities where they can create relationships that can lead to a diversified supply chain.

Furthermore, we have seen a huge increase in Indigenous-owned businesses in our province that will help lead to economic prosperity for all Saskatchewan residents. As our directory grows, we have plans to continue to engage with the companies listed and inform them of any relevant information they may need to grow their business.

**Saskatchewan** 

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## Committees and Councils

### SCC Environment Committee

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce Energy & Environment committee focuses on issues arising from environmental and energy policy that affects business operations in Saskatchewan. The committee continues to monitor and engage in discussions associated with the net-zero target, including the evaluation of all areas that might transition Saskatchewan to a low carbon economy.

Committee members include industry leaders, non-profit organizations, and senior officials from the Ministry of the Environment, and from SaskPower.

### SCC Labour Market Council

First established in 2010, the SLMC provides the instrument that brings together business, industry associations, labour, training institutions and government to share progress, challenges and opportunities on a variety of programs and initiatives impacting the labour market.

The Council meets regularly between September and June and features a presentation on the State of the Saskatchewan Labour Market prepared by the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training. The data presented allows the Council to better understand changes and trends in the provincial labour market.

Staff availability and access to skilled and experienced workers have been a common priority expressed in the chamber's annual membership survey, however in 2022 this file became the #1 concern for Saskatchewan businesses. In 2022, the key areas of focus were understanding the future of work, labour force trends, the lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on labour market, diversity and inclusion, and training programs.

Labour Market Council participants celebrated the 2022 announcement of the *Labour Mobility and Fair Registration Practices Act* by the provincial government. This Act and its regulations reduce barriers to working in Saskatchewan by ensuring skilled workers can have their credentials recognized in a timely manner making Saskatchewan an attractive destination for workers within Canada and abroad.

### Water Council for Saskatchewan

The Water Council for Saskatchewan, which is chaired and coordinated by the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, is a multi-stakeholder advisory body comprised of industry, municipal associations, water stewardship and conservation groups, and researchers. The Water Council envisions a provincial water governance and management

approach that is integrated, multi-disciplinary, collaborative and strategic.

Saskatchewan, like every other province, relies on water to service our communities, businesses, and for environmental purposes. Businesses throughout the province have a significant reliance on water for use in day-to-day operations, most notably in farming, manufacturing, potash mining, and resort communities. The Water Council for Saskatchewan provides a common table for water experts to gather to discuss the state of water in our province.

The Council is clear that it in no way is doing work that duplicates the work of the Water Security Agency of Saskatchewan. The Council is proud of the relationship it has with the WSA and is pleased that the agency has committed to having a representative attend Council meetings on a regular basis. In 2022, the Water Council continued to speak in favour of flood plan mapping, information sharing between stakeholders, and to advocate for water infrastructure investments.



## Member Round Tables (August / September 2022)

### 2022 SCC Member Round Tables

In August and September, the SCC team met with SCC members in six business sectors to gather information which was used to form SCC's strategic priorities and two-year plan. The sectors involved included:

- Indigenous owned business sector,
- manufacturing sector,
- technology sector,
- mining and resources sector,
- retail services sector,
- energy sector.

More than 60 business members, including both small and large organizations, took part in the round table consultation process.

The round table sessions provided the SCC with a robust understanding of some of the challenges and opportunities facing members in a range of sectors across the province. The findings from the sessions were used as the basis for the development of SCC's 2022-2024 Plan. They will also be used in the development of member programs and advocacy themes going forward.







## Advocacy Efforts

As the voice of Saskatchewan business, the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce engaged in numerous advocacy efforts in 2022—many of which are ongoing, including:

### 1. Carbon Tax

SCC submitted a policy resolution on Returning Carbon Tax Proceeds to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) at the 2022 Canadian Chamber policy debate in Ottawa (Oct 2022). The resolution called on the Government of Canada to return all carbon tax proceeds, beyond those already being returned to households, to the applicable jurisdiction through a broadly accessible program. The resolution was adopted with 99.24% support. SCC also met with representatives from the Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Canada in Ottawa to discuss the return of carbon tax proceeds.

### 2. Environment

After years of advocacy, the SCC celebrated in 2022 when the federal and provincial governments announced a plan to replace the federally imposed carbon tax on industrial emitters, with the provincial Output-Based Pricing System (OBSP) for all sectors. Along with our partners, the SCC was happy to serve as an advocate for Saskatchewan control over carbon pricing, advancing the province's request for local administration.

### 3. Oil & Gas

The SCC provided feedback and recommendations to the Discussion Paper on Options to Cap and Cut Oil and Gas Sector Greenhouse Gas Emissions to Achieve 2030 Goals and Net-Zero by 2050, to Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). The Chamber recommended the federal government focus on building a unified emissions reductions framework that does not harm the competitiveness of O&G business and instead work on, 1) attracting, and making de-carbonization investments; 2) working with industry to develop GHG emission reduction goals while building energy security; 3) giving current regulation an opportunity to work; 4) studying the regulatory environment as a whole; and 5) avoiding sector specific regulations.

### 4. Fertilizer

The SCC stood up for Canadian farmers by calling on the government to scrap the implementation of a mandatory greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goal. If this becomes mandatory, it could lead to lower crop yields and reduced farm profitability, impacting the ability for farm operations to make improvements in the future.

### 5. Employment Insurance

The SCC called on the Minister of Employment Social Development Canada (ESDC) to pay off the EI fund deficit (\$33.9B) in full instead of

unreasonably increasing premiums on employers. Looking ahead, EI is an important program, however, it must be fundamentally reformed to provide financial stability to Canadians during periods of short-term job loss, while supporting their re-entry into the labour market. The SCC made a formal submission to the federal government's consultation, outlining how the EI system can best serve Saskatchewan if it is managed and delivered as intended – as an insurance program.

### 6. Provincial Sales Tax

Sales taxes attached to business activity in Saskatchewan remain a problem for business competitiveness. The Provincial Sales Tax on business inputs has an overall negative impact on the provincial economy; specifically, a reduction in investment, competitiveness, and growth. This reduced investment and economic activity results in forgone revenue from other tax sources. In an October 2022 survey of the SCC membership, 60% of respondents indicated the PST had a negative impact on their business operations. The SCC met with the Saskatchewan Minister of Finance to discuss business community concerns regarding the detrimental impact of this tax structure.



### **7. Labour Mobility Announcement at Legislature**

After years of advocacy, the Chamber was pleased to stand beside the provincial government for the introduction of the Labour Mobility and Fair Registration Regulations. These regulations, that reduce administrative credential recognition barriers faced by workers from other provinces and those trained internationally, put Saskatchewan as a leader in Canada with respect to Foreign Credential Recognition.

### **8. Immigration**

The SCC, through the Western Canada Executive Council, met with Federal Minister for Immigration Hon. Sean Fraser to advance the immigration priorities for Saskatchewan. In addition, the SCC and other colleagues also met with Immigration critic Tom Kmiec to reiterate the importance of Saskatchewan having more flexibility and autonomy over immigration to address the labour shortages.

### **9. Aviation in Saskatchewan**

In December the SCC hosted a webinar with the CEOs of the Regina and Saskatoon Airport Authorities to raise concerns about the Air Canada decision to end direct flights from Regina and Saskatoon to Calgary. The CEOs of the Regina and Saskatoon Airport Authorities presented information about the current status of flights in Saskatchewan and discussed the future aviation outlook for the province.

### **10. Workers' Compensation**

The Workers' Compensation Committee of Review Report was released in 2022. This report, which occurs every five years, contained 34 recommendations to improve the WCB system in Saskatchewan. After consultations with members, the SCC responded to the Government of Saskatchewan's request for stakeholder input on the COR recommendations that required legislative amendment. The SCC will continue to monitor this file in 2023.

### **11. SCC Response to Government of Saskatchewan Throne Speech**

On October 26, the SCC responded to the Saskatchewan Throne Speech in a news release sent to all Saskatchewan media. The SCC announced its support of the government's plans to sign the Saskatchewan Canada Immigration Accord for more autonomy and flexibility in meeting the demands of the labour market.

"The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce looks forward to receiving more information on the Saskatchewan First Act," said Prabha Ramaswamy, CEO Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce. "Our members believe there needs to be greater transparency and collaboration between the federal and provincial governments on this issue. The SCC is supportive of measures that give Saskatchewan businesses the advantage they need to compete regionally, nationally, and internationally. We will be monitoring this very closely."

### **Media Coverage Generated:**

In 2022 the SCC was mentioned:

- in the media 380 times,
- on social media 1600 times.





# INPUTSASK

*Amplifying the voices of Saskatchewan business.*

## InputSask

Launched in 2021, InputSask is a unique insight community that takes engagement to the next level. It is an all-in-one survey platform and community hub, funded by Prairies Economic Development Canada (PrairiesCan), and it has the capacity for discussion and focus groups, and communications within the hub. InputSask participants include CEOs, executives, leaders, entrepreneurs, business owners large and small, and professionals from all sectors across Saskatchewan.

Members engage and provide their input on subjects such as the current economic landscape, government policies and regulations, labour challenges and many other issues or opportunities facing Saskatchewan businesses. Data gathered through InputSask informs our advocacy efforts and our policy development process.

The InputSask community enables community members to provide input on issues that affect their business and livelihood and to influence government decision-making. The work begins with listening to our members from across the province - asking the right questions and providing data-driven insights to government and partners.

**The InputSask community enables community members to provide input on issues that affect their business and livelihood and to influence government decision-making.**

The SCC is part of a national coalition made up of provincial chambers from British Columbia to the Atlantic provinces that are all using the same platform to gather and share data. Together we have the largest collective business voice in the country. We also have increased capacity for sharing resources across provinces.

Why belong to the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce Input Community?

- You'll have the opportunity to share your thoughts on topics that you care about with respect to Saskatchewan business and the provincial economy.
- We share information back to you so you have the line of sight on the collective perspective in Saskatchewan.
- Member intelligence can be segmented by sector, region, gender, and more, to give better insight into various business demographics throughout the province.

Join the InputSask Community by creating a profile at [inputsask.com](https://inputsask.com). Your participation strengthens our ability to advocate on issues affecting Saskatchewan businesses – enabling us to play a role in keeping our economy healthy, strong, and sustainable.

Input SK Surveys, 2022:

- Saskatchewan Supply Chain Issues, January 2022
- Lifting COVID Vaccine Mandates, January 2022
- SK COVID Economic Recovery, January 2022
- Membership Survey, April 2022
- Indigenous Engagement Study, June 2022
- Government Surplus Consultation, August 2022
- Economic Outlook, September 2022
- Provincial pre-Budget, September 2022
- SK PST Expansion survey, October 2022
- Government of Canada CEBA Loans, November 2022

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## Signature Events

### Political Forum

Political Forum 2022 marked the return of one of the chamber's most notable signature event. Political Forum has been hosted by the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce every year since 1977, 2021 being the exception.

This signature event attracts business leaders from across the province to connect with Saskatchewan's elected leaders. The 2022 event drew 217 attendees and was held at the Hotel Saskatchewan in Regina on April 7, 2022.

The Official Opposition session with Mr. Ryan Meili and his caucus was moderated by Past-Chair, Monica Kreuger. Questions were submitted by members in advance of the event and were also taken from the floor. They included topics such as inflation, workforce development, trade diversification, immigration, Indigenous procurement, taxes, health, nuclear power, irrigation, tourism, to name a few.

Following the Official Opposition session, members moved into a networking reception and dinner hour before hearing from the Government.

The Government portion of the evening with Premier Scott Moe and members of Cabinet was moderated by SCC Chair, Thomas Benjoe. Positive attendance by cabinet was noted, with the Premier and 16 Ministers attending and taking

questions from attendees. Some of the topics from the Opposition session overflowed into the Government discussions. Additional topics discussed were the Growth Plan, Budget projections, increasing provincial self-sufficiency, immigration, trade barriers, agriculture, low carbon economy, innovation, childcare, doctor recruitment, carbon tax and several others.

**The Political Forum attracts business leaders from across the province to connect with Saskatchewan's elected leaders. The 2022 event drew 217 attendees and was held at the Hotel Saskatchewan in Regina on April 7, 2022.**

Thank you to our Political Forum 2022 event sponsors: Deloitte LLP, Federated Co-operatives Limited, McKercher LLP, Mosaic Canada, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, Saskatchewan Realtors Association.

### AGM and Conference

The 2022 SCC AGM was held on May 12th and included the swearing in of Evan Doecker, the incoming SCC Chair. The event featured a luncheon and a panel discussion on "Food, Fuel and Fertilizer - The Future of Saskatchewan" with Murad Al-Katib, President and CEO of AGT

Food and Ingredients, Brian Reilly, Senior Vice President and COO at Cameco Corporation, and Chris Reynolds, Senior Vice-President and acting Co-Interim President at Nutrien.

As well, the SCC hosted a special Retirement Reception for Steve McLellan following the AGM. The event featured virtual and in-person speakers sharing memorable stories about Steve.

### Deputy Minister Breakfast Series

The SCC held virtual sessions in the 2022 Deputy Minister Breakfast series. This series included sessions with the Deputy and Assistant Deputy of Crown Investments Corporation (January 18th), Ministry of Energy and Resources, and Ministry of Environment & Water Security (January 19th), Ministry Education and Ministry of Advanced Education (January 21st), Ministry of Finance and Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement (January 25th), Ministry of Trade and Export Development, and Ministry of Immigration & Career Training and Innovation Saskatchewan (January 26th).

This full suite of virtual events facilitated engaging conversations between the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce and Saskatchewan government officials.



### ABEX Awards

On November 5, 2022, the SCC hosted its 39th Annual ABEX Awards, presented by Conexus Credit Union. The event was held at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon, SK. As Saskatchewan's premier business awards event, the ABEX Awards have been bringing together Saskatchewan's most accomplished businesses for an evening of extravagance and celebration since 1984, and 2022 was no exception. In fact, this year was an especially exciting event as the first in-person ABEX since 2019.

More than 237 Award nominations were received, with 30 businesses being named as finalists across the various categories. At the awards gala, 11 deserving businesses were presented with ABEX Awards. Most notable is the coveted Business of the Year Award, sponsored by Grant Thornton LLP, which is selected from all the ABEX finalists.

The 2022 Business of the Year award was presented to Maven Water and Environment, which also took home the Growth and Expansion Award. Maven Water and Environment develops and applies water treatment technologies across the global mining sector to create a sustainable future, where resources are produced with minimal impact to water.

The ABEX Awards will be celebrating its 40th birthday on September 16, 2023, in Saskatoon, Sk.

#### Thanks to our sponsors:

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- Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board
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- Discover Saskatoon
- Grant Thorson LLP
- KPMG
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Trade and Export Development
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ABEX  
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 **11**  
ABEX  
AWARD  
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# 2022 ABEX Award Recipients



**MAVEN WATER & ENVIRONMENT – SASKATOON**  
 Business of the Year Award  
*Sponsored by Grant Thornton LLP*



**MCKERCHER LLP – REGINA AND SASKATOON**  
 Saskatchewan Business Hall of Fame Inductee  
*Presented by Conexus Credit Union*



**VALERIE SLUTH – REGINA**  
 Business Leader of the Year  
*Sponsored by the University of Regina*



**ERIC DILLON – REGINA**  
 Community Leader of the Year  
*Sponsored by SaskEnergy*



**CUSTOM AGRICULTURAL INTELLIGENCE - REGINA**  
 Innovation Award  
*Sponsored by Saskatchewan Polytechnic*



## 2022 ABEX Award Recipients



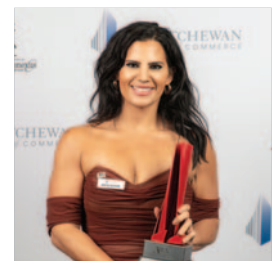
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**ALICIA SOULIER, SALON  
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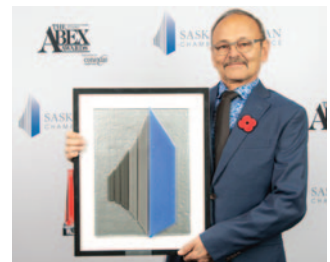
**FARMER JANE CANNABIS  
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**EVAN ORTYNSKY, KEY  
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Builder Award





### Chairs Invitational Dinner

We were pleased to convene Deputy Ministers, Crown Corporation CEO's, and our membership for the annual Chair's Invitational Dinner on September 27, 2022 at the Conexus Arts Centre in Regina. This exclusive, member-only event sells out every year, and provides the membership with incredible opportunities to discuss top-of-mind business issues with the provincial government. In a jam-packed room with over 200 guests, we were thrilled to have a Deputy Minister or Crown Corporation CEO seated at every single table where productive conversations about business opportunities and challenges were discussed.

In addition to the smaller table conversations, a large portion of the evening was dedicated to taking questions from the floor. This session was moderated by SCC

**To prepare for success, we recommend reviewing the current tax system as well as all government processes and regulations that impact business.**

CEO, Prabha Ramaswamy and Raynelle Wilson, Deputy Minister to the Premier. The questions asked by guests focused on topics including supply chain issues, provincial broadband connectivity, provincial procurement policy, education, trade, and more.

Thank you to our sponsors: RBC, Ducks Unlimited, MNP, and CPHR Saskatchewan.



A woman with long dark hair, wearing a black blazer over a black top and a red patterned skirt, stands with her hand on her hip. The background is a scenic view of a lake and a cloudy sky.

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**Chief Tricia Sutherland**

One Arrow First Nation

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**BUSINESS  
SOLUTIONS**





## Federal/Provincial Ministerial Presentations

- **Natural Resources Information Session with Minister Wilkinson Government of Canada**

On February 22, 2022, the SCC hosted a virtual session with the Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Natural Resources. The session included a discussion on natural resource development, the low carbon economy transition, innovation, and potential opportunities for Saskatchewan businesses.

It began with a presentation by Minister Wilkinson and then moved into a Q&A session with SCC members.

- **Minister of Natural Resources Government of Canada**

On July 12, 2022, the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce was pleased to host a luncheon presentation by Natural Resources Minister Jonathan Wilkinson, in partnership with the Regina Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce. Approximately 50 members attended the event.

Minister Wilkinson touched on a number of topics in his keynote address and Q&A session ranging from Canada's labour force numbers and the opportunities he believes the province has in the natural resources field to power the economy, to carbon emission reduction targets.

He also addressed the perception that the federal government

ignores or discounts issues that are important to Saskatchewan residents by saying, "It is the responsibility of any federal government to be concerned with the circumstances and the hopes and the aspirations of people who live in every province and territory in this country."

Many Chamber members asked questions of the Minister from the floor. The event was moderated by Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce CEO Prabha Ramaswamy.

**The Premier's speech focused on Saskatchewan's Plan for Growth and on the provincial government's Fall Legislative plans and priorities ahead of the Speech from the Throne.**

- **Minister of Tourism and Associate Minister of Finance, Government of Canada**

On August 15, 2022, the SCC hosted a luncheon and fireside chat in Saskatoon with Canada's Minister of Tourism and Associate Minister of Finance, the Honourable Randy Boissonnault.

Minister Boissonnault shared insights on a range of topics,

including the green economy, opportunities in the critical minerals industry, inflation, tourism growth, fuel, and the importance of working together to achieve success.

Approximately 80 members took part in the event, which was moderated by Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce CEO Prabha Ramaswamy.

- **Premier's Luncheon**

SCC along with the Regina and Saskatoon chambers hosted a luncheon with Premier Scott Moe on October 24, 2022, at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon. More than 500 individuals took in the event.

The Premier's speech focused on Saskatchewan's Plan for Growth and on the provincial government's Fall Legislative plans and priorities ahead of the Speech from the Throne. The Premier discussed opportunities for Saskatchewan to be a leader in energy and food security.

He told those assembled that the province's resource industry, including potash and uranium, is proving essential in Saskatchewan and abroad, and he advised that he intended to increase immigration numbers to remedy labour demand.

This event was hosted by in partnership with Saskatoon and Regina Chambers. The Saskatchewan Realtors Association also joined the event.



## Thought Leadership Hub Series

The SCC's Thought Leadership Hub Series offers forward thinking conversations about the issues and opportunities facing the Saskatchewan business community. In 2022, Saskatchewan community leaders were invited to facilitate and participate in the Thought Leadership Hubs, offering discussion opportunities for session participants. These events are open to members and non-members of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce. There are four events in the 2022-23 series, two of which occurred in 2022.

The series brought businesses together virtually to have meaningful conversations, forge new connections, and cement long standing ones under the umbrella of innovative idea sharing. Because of its success, we look forward to the remaining two events in this innovative and exciting series.

### 2022 Thought Leadership Hub Programming:

#### Speakers/sessions

- Cyber Security - Protecting Your Business from Ransomware Attacks
  - o Featuring Nathan Schissel (MLT Aikins) and Jeff McMurray (KPMG)
- Indigenous Engagement
  - o Featuring Josh Morrison (MLT Aikins LLP), Bo Kristensen and Michelle Kealey (KPMG)

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP HUBS



Sponsored by:





## Energy on Tap Series



Our monthly Energy on Tap Series provides information to the business community on Saskatchewan's broad-based energy sector through a series of energy-themed events and communications. The Energy Series wrapped up in 2022 with five events (four in-person, one virtual), and a virtual option to allow for attendees from all over the province to learn more about the energy sector.

Topics and speakers for the 2022 series included:

- Helium in Saskatchewan - Susanna Laaksonen-Craig, Deputy Minister Energy and Resources, Government of Saskatchewan and Andrew Davidson, Royal Helium Ltd.
- Geothermal Energy - Kirsten Marcia, President and CEO, DEEP
- Saskatchewan's Energy News - Brian Zinchuk, Editor and Owner, Pipeline Online
- Distributed Energy Resources- Nathan Hoffart, SaskPower
- Deep Geological Storage of CO<sub>2</sub>- Norm Sacuta, PTRC

Thank you to our 2022 Sponsors: Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, Greenwave Innovations, McKercher LLP, Petroleum Technology Research Centre, SaskPower, and Crave Kitchen + Wine Bar

*Thank you to our sponsors who make these events possible:*





## Training Partnerships



The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce is a proud supporter of post-secondary institutions. We believe that continuous learning, upskilling, and reskilling are key to retaining and attracting workers, as well as developing a well-rounded and rewarding career.

Through our training partnerships, the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce offers a suite of programs geared towards workers at any stage of their career.

### **Saskatchewan Polytechnic School for Continuing Education**

Programming focuses on meeting the needs of the local business community, by providing training solutions tailored towards business and skills that are in high demand or trending. The School of Continuing Education brings together internal expertise to advance professional

development programs, corporate training, and micro-credential offerings.

### **Southeast College**

The Business Management Essentials (BME) are ideal for aspiring, new, and current supervisors, as well as business professionals. These programs will help learners improve their management and leadership acumen through practical, skill-oriented business courses. This training is provided through virtual online classes facilitated by instructors who challenge and build the learner's core business, leadership, and management skills.

### **University of Regina Centre for Continuing Education**

Programming focuses on career and professional development through a suite of undergraduate and non-credit programs delivered in a variety of formats, from online to evening and face-to-face regional college courses.

### **University of Saskatchewan Language Centre**

Through the Language Centre's English for Business Purposes course, participants across the province will learn language and presentation skills that can help them achieve career goals and thrive professionally in Saskatchewan and Canada's business environment.

**Programming focuses on meeting the needs of the local business community by providing training solutions tailored towards business and skills that are in high demand or trending.**

### **Enough Already's Training to Address Sexual Harassment in the Workplace**

A multi-stakeholder coalition determined to address and prevent workplace sexual harassment in Saskatchewan. Enough Already provides support and strengthens organizations by offering free education and tools. Their team works with organizations to respond to their unique workplace needs and to help prevent and eliminate sexual harassment in workplaces. All training is provided free of charge.

Coalition members include the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, Saskatoon Industry Education-Council, Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan, CREATE Justice, College of Law – University of Saskatchewan, and the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission.





## Looking Forward



The 2022 year was an exciting one for the Saskatchewan Chamber and its members for many reasons, not the least of which was the return to our signature events and in-person luncheons, information sessions and series and networking opportunities. Looking forward, the 2023 year looks to be equally as exciting.

- **Plans underway for Food, Fuel and Fertilizer Summit**

We have already begun work on planning an innovative event that we anticipate will bring together members, chambers, and industry leaders from across western Canada to talk about the role western provinces can and must play in the future of food, fuel and fertilizer globally.

**The SCC is working to facilitate a meeting in the spring for members of the Saskatchewan Chamber Network with Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe and members of the provincial Cabinet.**

- **Chamber Network Meeting with Provincial Politicians**

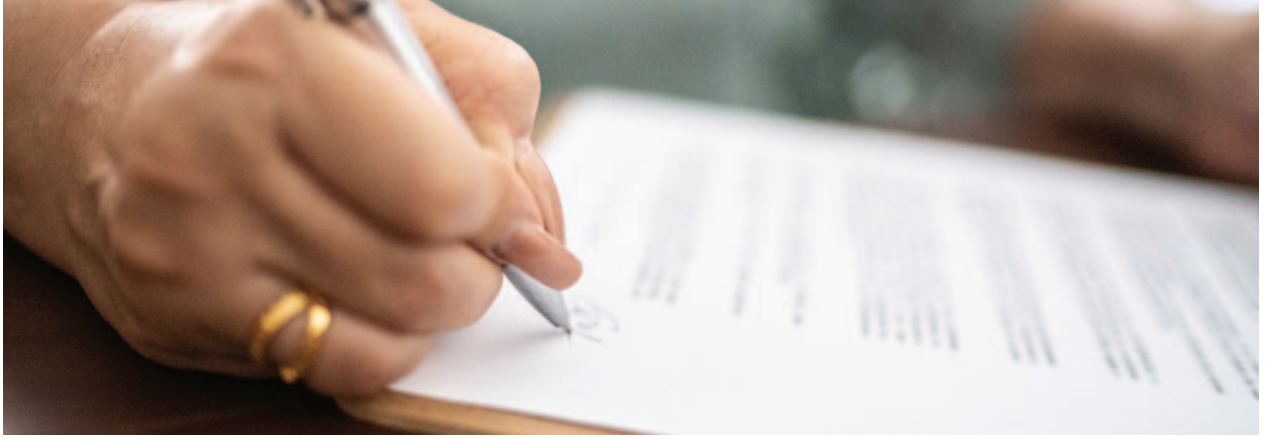
SCC is working to facilitate a meeting in the spring for members of the Saskatchewan Chamber Network with Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe and members of the provincial Cabinet. The date of the meeting will be booked around availability of Premier Moe and key provincial Cabinet Ministers.

- **Reconstituting the Saskatchewan Labour Market Council**

SCC has plans underway to reconstitute the Labour Market Council in 2023 to include a greater representation from the business community. Members will represent a broad range of industries and industry sizes. The goal of the revised Council will be to develop solutions that can be presented to government, to help address the province's current labour market challenges.

- **Business on Tap**

In the fall of 2023, the SCC will introduce a new member networking series entitled Business on Tap. This new series will be held quarterly and will rotate between Regina and Saskatoon. The events will focus on a range of industries and sectors. Each event will feature a presentation by a local business owner or professional, which will be followed by a networking event with food and appetizers. Watch for more information on this new series in late 2023.



## Chamber Accreditation

### **Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce Re-Accredited in 2022!**

The Canadian Chamber Network has an accreditation process that chambers of commerce can use to measure themselves against the best chambers in their size class across the country. There are several areas of measurement such as governance, membership processes, government relations and community engagement. The intent is not to create competition, but to provide a process to assist chambers and ensure they are hitting the mark.

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce invested time in updating its policies and strategies throughout the year and received confirmation of its re-accreditation in late 2022. There are several other chambers across the province that have maintained or achieved Accredited Chamber of Commerce status, they are: Battlefords Chamber of Commerce, Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce, Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce, Prairie Sky Chamber of Commerce, Regina & District Chamber of Commerce, and the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce.



Saskatchewan has many strong chambers and the accreditation process, while requiring a significant time commitment, provides a basis to grow, and records in one place the numerous good processes that a chamber performs for their business community. Accreditation ensures:

- Strategic focus on core chamber activities.
- Uniform practices, policies across the chamber network.
- Dependable governance procedures.
- Distinctive brand identity. A competitive edge against other business organizations.
- A stronger “voice of business” in your community. An increased role in national and international policy advocacy.

For more information, visit [accreditationcc.ca](https://accreditationcc.ca) or contact the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce.





# The Chamber of Commerce Network in Saskatchewan



The chamber of commerce network in Saskatchewan has been actively advocating for business for over one hundred years. The unique supports that have been provided by chambers throughout the pandemic have strengthened the network in numerous ways.

Chambers meet monthly to discuss opportunities and challenges in their business communities, find ways to collaborate to address the needs of business, share best practices for events, and create synergies to strengthen advocacy efforts. The chamber network continues to collaborate successfully to serve business by working on shared projects tailored to the unique needs of each community.

Two notable projects the chamber network embarked on recently were the Training & Employment Network (TEN) and the Canada Shop Local program. The results of these successfully rolled out programs can be seen throughout the communities in which they were implemented.



## The Canadian Chamber of Commerce



The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce joined other provincial chambers in working closely with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce (CCC) on a number of critical issues in 2022.

- Federal Government Return to Office Plan: Emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic, chambers began advocating for the health of communities and downtowns. Together the chambers co-signed a letter to the federal government, urging the implementation of a return to work plan. This lobby effort proved to be successful when the plan was implemented in October 2022.
- Employment Insurance (EI) Reform: Along with seven other territorial and provincial chambers, the SCC signed a letter to Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), expressing concerns with the EI premium hikes, the program's deficit, and the importance of EI reform being reflective of the economic challenges faced by businesses in Canada today. July 2022.
- CP work stoppage letter: The SCC signed a letter during a pending stoppage to the Canadian Pacific (CP) railway network, urging the federal government to facilitate a negotiation between CP and the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference. March 2022.
- Monthly Canadian Chamber of Commerce meetings: The SCC participates in the monthly CCC policy-leads call which provide updates on emerging policy

items across the country. Provincial and Territorial chambers also participate.

In addition, the SCC attended the 2022 AGM. The CCC AGM was held in Ottawa in October 2022 and involved chambers from across the country including a few chambers from Saskatchewan.

A total of 65 resolutions were passed. SCC submitted a policy resolution on Returning Carbon Tax Proceeds to SMEs. The resolution was adopted with 99.24% support.

Once approved, resolutions are brought to the attention of the appropriate federal government officials and departments.





# Why Join the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce?



The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce has been serving members of the Saskatchewan business community for over 100 years—building the province to be the best place to live, work, and invest.

The backbone of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce is business advocacy. We are the province's premier business advocate and the voice of Saskatchewan businesses.

Through your input and influence, the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce ensures that the provincial and federal governments understand the needs of your business and the larger business community.

As an SCC member, you have a direct impact on our policies and priorities at the AGM and through a variety of other annual events.

**The backbone of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce is business advocacy. We are the province's premier business advocate and the voice of Saskatchewan businesses.**

Your membership with the Chamber provides an opportunity to get in front of Saskatchewan's decision-makers at our events—ranging from our sellout Political Forum to our exclusive Chair's Invitational Dinner. SCC events allow you to connect with Saskatchewan's top political leaders while networking with other business leaders, future customers, suppliers and friends.

We also provide many benefits for our members, such as the Chambers Plan—Canada's largest plan for small to medium-sized businesses. Chambers Plan now provides coverage to over 30,000 firms, offering traditional coverage such as life, health, dental and disability, critical illness and so much more.

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce welcomes conversations with all businesses on how we can work together to improve the Saskatchewan business climate, making our province the best place in Canada to live, work and invest.

For more information on memberships, contact (306) 352-2671 or visit [saskchamber.com](http://saskchamber.com)





# 2022 Sponsors

It is thanks to these sponsors that various Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce events and projects were possible in 2022.



Annual Report Design: bradburybrandexperts.com



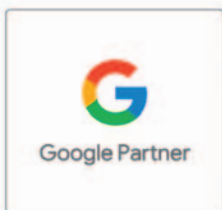
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# SUPPORTING SASKATCHEWAN'S GROWTH PLAN

What does the oil and natural gas industry mean to Saskatchewan's economy?

## Jobs, GDP and exports



of Saskatchewan's total **GDP in 2021.**<sup>2</sup>



of provincial **exports**, valued at **\$13.3 BILLION (2022).**<sup>2</sup>

## Environmental Spending

The oil and natural gas industry spends over **\$3 billion** annually on environmental protection, representing over 34% of spending across all Canadian businesses (2019, Stats Canada)

## Production

**453,830** barrels/day  
of oil production  
**2<sup>nd</sup> in Canada (2022).**<sup>3</sup>



**Saskatchewan's oil and natural gas production plays a key role in supporting and strengthening the province's economy**

## Royalties, revenues and spending

**\$1.2 BILLION**  
in estimated royalties paid to Saskatchewan government for fiscal year 2022-23.<sup>3</sup>

**\$17 BILLION**  
combined estimated value of oil and gas production for 2022.<sup>3</sup>

## Indigenous participation

**10%** of the oil and natural gas workforce in Saskatchewan is Indigenous, offering opportunities for a higher standard of living through earning a salary more than double the provincial average.<sup>4</sup>

Sources:

1. Government of Canada

2. Statistics Canada

3. Government of Saskatchewan

4. Indigenous Resource Network

