



March 1, 2024

saskchamber.com

306.781.3121

200 - 2221 Cornwall St
Regina, SK S4P 2L1

Hon. Chrystia Freeland,
Minister of Finance
Government of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Telephone: 613-992-5234

Via email

Dear Minister Freeland,

As the voice of business in Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce would like to express our disappointment with the recent decision regarding the allocation of the proceeds from the Canada Carbon Rebate program by the federal government, particularly concerning the reduction in funds available for small businesses for 2024-25.

Small businesses were already facing a disproportionate burden, paying more in carbon taxes than they could potentially receive in return. The decision to further diminish their share of proceeds only exacerbates this disparity and undermines the government's commitment to economic sustainability, and to small businesses, which are the backbone of our economy.

Compounding their struggle, the amount of proceeds due to be returned to our small businesses continues to grow because of the ongoing delay in launching a program to distribute these funds. These substantial funds could actively benefit our businesses, while the purchasing power of these funds has been diminishing each year. The Saskatchewan Chamber continues to express significant concerns about the guidelines established by the Government of Canada for the Canada Carbon Rebate Program, and we want to emphasize the urgency of promptly returning these funds to businesses in our province.



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In conclusion, we urge the federal government to reconsider its decision regarding the allocation of proceeds from the Canada Carbon Rebate program, and to expedite the launch of the program to distribute these funds to SMEs. We stand ready to engage in constructive dialogue to facilitate this while advancing our shared goals of economic prosperity and environmental sustainability.

Sincerely,

Prabha Ramaswamy, CEO
Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce

Cc: Chris Forbes, Deputy Minister, Department of Finance
Jean-François Tremblay, Deputy Minister, Department of Environment and
Climate Change Canada