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July 30, 2026

The Honourable Tim Hodgson
Minister of Energy and Natural Resources
Natural Resources Canada
580 Booth St.
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0E4

Via email: electricity-electricite@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca

Re: Consultation on *Powering Canada Strong: A National Strategy for an Electrified Canadian Economy*

Dear Minister Hodgson,

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce appreciates the opportunity to provide input into the Government of Canada's consultation on *Powering Canada Strong: A National Strategy for an Electrified Canadian Economy*. We commend Natural Resources Canada for producing the strategy, and we affirm its objective to accelerate electrification across the economy to support a globally competitive environment for Canadian businesses.

Since 1920, the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce has been the Voice of Business in Saskatchewan. Supported by provincial businesses, professional associations, and local Chambers of Commerce, the Saskatchewan Chamber is uniquely equipped to accurately reflect the needs of the broad Saskatchewan business community to help make Saskatchewan the best place to live, work and invest.

For Saskatchewan businesses, electrification is not an abstract policy exercise. It is directly tied to our reliability, competitiveness, and investment attraction. Saskatchewan's economy depends on practical, technology-neutral pathways that recognize regional circumstances, respect provincial jurisdiction over electricity systems, and ensure that new federal measures do not shift disproportionate cost or risk onto ratepayers, taxpayers, or employers.
We are encouraged that the strategy recognizes the continuing role of natural gas in Western Canada and the value of regional integration. Saskatchewan has

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significant opportunities to contribute to a stronger Canadian electricity economy through expanded interties, critical minerals development, advanced manufacturing, and nuclear supply-chain development.

At the same time, the scale of the build-out is substantial. Canada's electricity system will require major new generation, transmission, storage, workforce, and supply-chain capacity. Saskatchewan's electricity demand is expected to grow significantly by 2050, while the province must continue to provide affordable and reliable power to households, farms, mines, manufacturers, processors, and exporters. Federal policy must therefore be designed to enable investment—not delay it—and to support jurisdictions that face higher transition costs because of geography, legacy assets, industrial load, and limited intertie capacity.

Key Considerations and Recommendations

Building the electricity system

1. The federal government should explicitly prioritize affordability, reliability, and economic growth, while maintaining a technology-neutral approach to reliable, lower-emission power. Saskatchewan requires a diversified energy mix that may include natural gas with emissions-reduction technologies, hydro, wind, solar, storage, biomass, coal transition options, and nuclear. Federal policy should support outcomes—reliability, affordability, lower emissions, and competitiveness—rather than prescribe a narrow technology pathway.

Financing the build

2. Provide meaningful federal cost-sharing for transmission and generation. Funding mechanisms must not disadvantage provinces with smaller ratepayer bases or larger infrastructure gaps. Federal tools should include clear, predictable, and material support for interprovincial and intra-provincial transmission, including projects that improve northern energy security, critical minerals development, grid reliability, and export growth.

Increasing regional integration

3. Advance Saskatchewan-Manitoba intertie expansion and broader regional integration. The strategy notes significant benefits from tripling capacity between Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The Government of Canada should prioritize intertie projects through the Major Projects Office, support fair cost allocation, and ensure that Saskatchewan receives active federal support comparable to other named national projects.

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Improving regulatory certainty and speed

4. Respect provincial jurisdiction and regional realities. Electricity systems are primarily provincial responsibilities, and Saskatchewan's starting point differs from hydro-rich jurisdictions. Federal programming should support province-led planning and avoid one-size-fits-all requirements that undermine reliability or affordability.

Managing demand and modernizing the system

5. Modernize the grid in ways that support reliability, competitiveness, and customer choice. Federal support for demand-side measures, smart grids, storage, and energy management should be designed to reduce system costs, improve reliability, and help businesses manage energy use without compromising productivity or growth.

Building capacity across the value chain

6. Support nuclear development and Saskatchewan's role in a national nuclear supply chain without dictating the technology choices. Saskatchewan's uranium resources, industrial capabilities, and small modular reactor planning position the province to contribute to domestic energy security and global exports. Federal support should include cost-sharing for first-of-kind nuclear deployment, supply-chain development, workforce training, and regulatory certainty.

Ensuring the skills and labour needed

7. Invest in the workforce required to build and operate the electricity economy, and align federal workforce programs with employer demand. Training investments should be practical, employer-informed, and connected to real project pipelines in construction, utilities, mining, manufacturing, and clean technology.

Securing the North

8. Recognize northern energy security as a national competitiveness issue. Federal support should include intra-provincial transmission investments that improve reliability for northern Saskatchewan, support critical minerals development, reduce energy constraints for remote and Indigenous communities, and strengthen long-term economic growth.

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce supports the objective of accelerating electrification to meet growing demand, strengthen competitiveness, and advance Canada's economic sovereignty. To achieve that objective, the final strategy must be practical, investment-focused, and regionally responsive. Saskatchewan businesses are ready to help build the infrastructure, supply chains, workforce, and industrial opportunities that a

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stronger electricity system will require. What they need from the federal government is certainty, partnership, and a funding framework that recognizes the national value of Saskatchewan's energy, minerals, manufacturing, agriculture, and export economy.

Thank you for considering our feedback. We are committed to collaborating with Natural Resources Canada to promote a competitive business environment for Saskatchewan industry.

Sincerely,

Prabha Ramaswamy, CEO
Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce