

ISSUE IN FOCUS



Celebrating 100 Years

SASKATCHEWAN
CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

Enhancing Provincial Data Collection

Background:

Good government planning should be based on accurate, up-to-date, and detailed information about relevant jurisdictions. Statistical information, which serves as the basis for creating planning forecasts, is also essential to the democratic process since it enables citizens to examine the decisions made by provincial and federal governments, as well as those made by local authorities, and then decide whether those entities are adequately serving the public.

Issue:

While Saskatchewan's provincial government and businesses are significant users of federal census data, there is also information that should be collected within the province that is not falling within the scope of Statistics Canada's priorities. There is an increasing need for the Government of Saskatchewan to improve its ability to gather provincial data for use in local government and business planning.

Recommendations:

1. That the Government of Saskatchewan identify specific areas of provincial data that do not currently fall within the mandate of Statistics Canada and then create a process to gather useable data in those areas once a cost-benefit analysis has been undertaken to confirm that the data collection will be worth the expense.
2. That the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce work with the Government of Saskatchewan to identify issues of particular importance to the province's business community so that the collection of useable data in those areas can be made a priority.

3. That the Government of Saskatchewan communicate directly with industry associations and businesses to ensure that the quality of data being collected on identified issues is of high quality and as useful as possible. The Chamber strongly recommends the Government of Saskatchewan provide clarity around the situations and circumstances under which randomized testing would be permitted. This would include which testing methods (blood, saliva, urine, etc.) would be sanctioned and who would be permitted to carry out the testing. Further to this, the Chamber would support a provision allowing for randomized testing of workers as a proactive approach to promote enhanced workplace health and safety in safety-sensitive sectors.

History:

Adopted Policy Resolution 2013

Adopted Policy Resolution 2016