

ISSUE IN FOCUS



Celebrating 100 Years

SASKATCHEWAN
CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

Impacts of Provincial Election on Government Partnership and Sponsorship

Background:

The Saskatchewan business community through organizations like chambers of commerce and other industry associations are currently dealing with the economic-related fallout of COVID-19.

Based on feedback from a recent survey circulated to SCC members and local Chambers, revenues have dropped dramatically for many businesses, events are being cancelled, and staff are being sent home.

Issue:

In accordance with The Election Act, 1996, the pre-election window for the 2020 provincial election is expected to fall between the dates of July 26th to October 26th. What this effectively means is that no government-sanctioned activities, like sponsorships, advertising, staff attendance, presentations, etc. can occur between these dates.

With numerous event and meeting postponements occurring this month and next mainly due to COVID-19, many of these activities will be rescheduled for the fall. These events often require solid long-term partnerships with government and were originally planned to be outside of the regular pre-election window.

With many of these events now postponed, there will likely be very serious financial implications for many if the exclusion window remains unchanged considering recent circumstances; non-profit organizations, for example, will take a serious financial hit as a result.

Recommendations:

1. That the Premier temporarily rescind the current directive of the Government of Saskatchewan and order that partnerships and advertising be permitted up to 30 days before election day.

History:

Letter to Premier 2020