



The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Finance
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

April 30/21

Re: Federal Budget 2021

Dear Minister Freeland,

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce (SCC), I am writing to congratulate you on this year's Federal Budget and to say that we appreciate the new items that will benefit Saskatchewan businesses. Like many others we are wary of the deficit and will be looking for strong fiscal management in the future, but today we recognize that continuing to battle the pandemic while supporting Canadian citizens and businesses is complex and the budget reflects this balancing act.

The SCC particularly welcomes these key elements:

- The ongoing pandemic supports for businesses including the wage subsidy, the rent subsidy, and the newly introduced Canada Recovery Hiring Program.
- The commitment of \$60 million to the VIDO-InterVac Centre in Saskatoon. This funding, which was strongly supported by the SCC, was very welcome news and will help to make Canada more self-sufficient by being able to manufacture vaccines in house.
- The creation of a new British Columbia Regional Economic Development Authority while preserving Western Economic Diversification's existing core program funding, making additional support available for businesses in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.
- The investment in the Canada Digital Adoption Program to help small businesses move online and offer e-commerce.

This past year has been extremely difficult for all Saskatchewan and Canadian businesses. Ongoing financial supports for those that continue to be negatively impacted by the pandemic are essential to their survival. Support for skills training and hiring, and digital adaptation will help our business community ensure that there are prosperous jobs that make Canada the best place to live, work, and invest. Moving forward, it is only through continuing to support business growth and building a competitive environment that our country can return to and surpass its pre-pandemic fiscal position.

Thank you for your dedicated efforts and for the considerate 2021/22 Budget.

Yours sincerely,

Original signed by

Monica Kreuger, Chair
Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce