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## Chambers Welcome Revised Tax Reforms and Lower Small Business Tax Rate but Remain Concerned

The Yorkton and Canadian Chambers of Commerce welcome the government's plans to revise its proposed tax reforms and to reduce the small business tax rate as a result of the comments and concerns expressed through the letter writing campaign, national #ProtectGrowth campaign and in consultations.

"This was great news for small business," said Brent Murdock, President of the Yorkton Chamber. "The recent announcement by the Federal Government is an indication of the strength of the Chamber network."

The Yorkton Chamber thanks all its members who took the time to express their opinions about the Proposed Federal Tax Changes. This important issue will affect both Canadian workers and employers.

Canadian Chamber CEO Hon. Perrin Beatty, noted the Minister's call for further input from Canadian businesses, and intends to continue providing a voice to ensure the tax system is simpler and less of a burden on Canada's competitiveness.

"It is always more productive when government and business work together. We can only hope the government will listen as we provide advice on those areas where more remains to be done, and that they will propose concrete data to back up their claims. The Canadian Chamber will be working with the Yorkton Chamber and other chambers across the country for suggestions on reforms that can improve the competitiveness of Canada's tax system. Lowering the small business tax rate is one such measure, but there is still much room for improvement," Mr. Beatty said. "We must ensure that Canada, and with it Yorkton, remain attractive places to do business. Although there is a great deal of work to be done, today's announcement is a positive first step, but we expect more and we will be vigilant on the next steps," he concluded.

The Yorkton Chamber of Commerce is the "voice of business in Yorkton." It represents 480 businesses and organizations.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce is the vital connection between business and the federal government. It helps shape public policy and decision-making to the benefit of businesses, communities and families across Canada with a network of over 450 chambers of commerce and boards of trade, representing 200,000 businesses of all sizes in all sectors of the economy and in all regions. News and information are available at Chamber.ca or follow on Twitter @CdnChamberofCom.



*President Brent Murdock is pleased the Federal Government has listened to Chambers and businesses across the country. The Government is asking for further consultation before moving forward with tax changes.*

## Positive Changes to the Tax Reform Proposal

Original Asks from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce:

*Government needs to:*

- Rethink its proposed tax changes to ensure that #ProtectGrowth of small businesses across Canada, and continue to encourage entrepreneurship.
- Launch meaningful consultations with the business community to review tax policy - without unfairly targeting independent businesses.
- Consider a comprehensive review of the Canadian tax system with a view toward fairness and simplification for all taxpayers, and increasing competitiveness for all businesses.



*General Messaging*

- The Chamber applauds the government for listening to the concerns of small business owners, entrepreneurs and even caucus members. The new measures recently proposed, while not perfect, are more balanced. The Canadian Chamber, however, will be vigilant on their details and application.
- The government's fulfillment of its electoral promise on lowering the small business tax rate will allow businesses to free up more capital to reinvest and create jobs. It's steering Canada closer to a more competitive tax system, if applied properly.
- Although the Canadian Chamber still has significant reservations on some of the proposed changes, the Canadian Chamber's efforts were successful and the Minister of Finance has made a noteworthy effort to take the opinion of small businesses into consideration in this new version of his proposed tax changes.
- The Canadian Chamber of Commerce and its local members will continue to give input into the application of the measures that have been announced, and will provide valuable insight and feedback into those areas that are still not fully defined.
- The Canadian Chamber is still open to working with the government to ensure that these new proposed measures are more balanced and will accomplish their intended goal of providing a fairer tax system to Canadians, without hurting small businesses.
- This has to be the first step in a broader discussion on tax competitiveness, and lead to a discussion on how we can ensure that Canada has a system that is both fair and attractive to foreign and domestic investors.
- At a time when our biggest trading partner and neighbour, the United States, is introducing a competitive tax package, we need to give our small businesses the tools they need to grow.

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**Interested in becoming a Chamber Member?**

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## Marijuana Anyone?

The Canadian Professional Human Resources (CPHR Saskatchewan) invited Meghan McCreary, a partner in MLT Aikins to share information about issues in the workplace as they pertain to the upcoming legalization of marijuana. At the conclusion of her excellent presentation, she had 2 takeaways for employers: 1) Although recreational marijuana will become legal, employers still have the authority to prohibit the possession and use of marijuana in their workplaces, and to prohibit employees from being under the influence of marijuana, or any other drug or alcohol, while at work; 2) Employers should review their HR policies to ensure they reflect that marijuana will be a legal recreational drug, but that its use, possession or influence will not be permitted in the workplace.



The Chamber urges all business people to become familiar with their rights and responsibilities regarding marijuana. The Trudeau government has indicated July 1 2018 marijuana will be legal in Canada.

## SaskPower Says



Megan Patterson and Pat Parrot, Consultants with SaskPower were the Guest Speakers at a recent Chamber Business Lunch where they shared information about the various programs available to businesses to help reduce their power bills. They encouraged the businesses present to learn more about where their money is going in relation to their power and natural gas use. Businesses can learn about their consumption to help them make money-saving decisions by utilizing the Business Online Energy Assessment Tool found at [www.saskpower.com/businessaudit](http://www.saskpower.com/businessaudit)

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

**November 1 - 4**  
Grain Millers Harvest Showdown

**November 11**  
Remembrance Day Services at the Gallagher Centre. Please be in your seat by 10:45 AM.

**November 15**  
Parkland Pitch Party, St. Mary's Ukrainian Cultural Centre (see Chamber's website for details)

- \$4500 in prize money sponsored by Community Futures Ventures for 6 entrepreneurs who will be selected to present their business ideas to a panel of judges. Application forms available at the Chamber office or on the Chamber's website. Open to the public.

**November 23**  
Chamber Business Lunch with Guest Speaker Karen Smith, CEO Better Business Bureau - Saskatchewan. Topics: Fraud & Scam Awareness and Benefits of Membership in BBB.

**November 25**  
Santa Claus Parade

**December 4**  
Holiday Train visits Yorkton

**December 15**  
Deadline for registering for Chamber Trip to China April 2018. Eleven days of sightseeing in 4 cities. Tour Guide who is fluent in English and your accommodation is in 4 & 5 Star hotels. Contact the Chamber for details. Only \$2299 per person.

## Visit China in April

Over 100 business people from around Saskatchewan are planning to visit China in April 2018 with the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce! This is your opportunity to tour the ancient country, visiting 4 cities and several attractions - including the Great Wall. You

will travel in a deluxe motor coach, stay in 4 & 5 star accommodations and be accompanied by a Tour Guide who is fluent in English. And all for the low cost of \$2299 from Calgary return. Interested? Then call the Yorkton Chamber (306-783-4368) for details.



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- To learn more about your energy consumption, visit [www.saskpower.com/businessaudit](http://www.saskpower.com/businessaudit)

## Chamber's 19th Annual Business Dinner a Success



Sponsorship provided by Mosaic Potash enabled students from Sacred Heart High and the Yorkton Regional High to attend the Dinner and meet with Michael.

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Guest Speaker Michael Campbell, indicated that with change there are winners and losers. He asked the audience which did they want to be? He challenged the audience to see the opportunity in change.



President Brent Murdock welcomed everyone to the 19th Annual Chamber Business Dinner and Vice President Mike Popowich served as MC for the evening.

## Congratulations!

- To Master Wayne Mitchell of Kees Taekwondo who was acclaimed as President of Taekwondo Canada
- To Value Tire and Battery for receiving second place in the Small Business Category from the 2017 Mission: Zero Awards
- To Yorkton Co-op on being named by Saskatchewan Business Magazine to the list of the Top 100 Businesses in Saskatchewan. (A couple of businesses located in Yorkton but with head offices in other locations also made the list).