

Connecting Voices. Building Business

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GET CONNECTED IN 2024!



10th Annual Chamber Business Golf Challenge
 Friday May 24th, 2024
 North Battleford Golf & Country Club
 Title Sponsor: Bridges Chevrolet Buick GMC

Registration: 9:30 a.m.
Shot-Gun Start: 10:30 a.m.
Meals included
Cost per golfer \$125 plus taxes
 Join in the fun, including the
“Fastest Hole in Golf”,
a Caddy Shack Hole, and more.

Food, Fuel, Fertilizer Global Summit

- Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, Regina

Confirmed guest speakers for this 2nd annual **Food, Fuel & Fertilizer Global Summit** include: Premier Scott Moe; Tim Gitzel, President & CEO of Cameco; the Right Hon. Stephen Harper, Former Prime Minister of Canada; Hon. Jeremy Harrison, Minister of Trade and Export Development and Immigration and Career Training; Bruce Bodine, President & CEO, the Mosaic Company; Hon. David Wilkins, Former Ambassador to Canada; Murad Al-Katib, President & CEO of AGT Foods & Ingredients; Hon. Brad Wall, Former Premier of Saskatchewan; Ranjith Narayansamy, President & CEO, Petroleum Technology Research Centre; Adam Engdahl, VP Community, NexGen Energy Ltd.; Ryan Hill, COO, Saskatchewan Research Council; and to kick off Day 2, there will be remarks from the Hon. Francois-Phillipe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry.



Nominations for the **30th BBEX Awards** will be open soon. Nominate your favorite business in any of the open categories.

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Summer Season Set to Begin

- Battlefords & District Chamber of Commerce

The summer season is set to begin here at the Chamber facility with the arrival of two interns, home for the summer from the U of S and U of A. The interns will work on a bevy of projects that will include a national re-accreditation application for the Chamber, Chamber member updates and of course, work on the 30th BBEX Awards upcoming in November 2024.

One very exciting new project the Chamber is moving forward with in the community is a very much needed information network. Watch for an upcoming announcement with more information, locations, and how you can be involved.

There is a lot of excitement in the business community as well, as properties are selling, there's a buzz about new businesses opening, and lots of activity heading into a very busy farming season of seeding, and more.

The Chamber will welcome visitors, residents and newcomers to the community picnic and park area – Rotary Park. Please be sure to take advantage of all the great things there are to see and do in the Battlefords over the next several months.



The Chamber Advantage 



Visibility and Promotion
Increase your brand awareness with the chamber

Regulatory Burden on Canadian Businesses

-Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Alex Greco, Senior Director, Manufacturing and Value Chains

Earlier in April, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce's Senior Director, Manufacturing and Value Chains, Alex Greco, appeared before the OGGO Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates to highlight the pressing issue of regulatory burden on Canadian businesses.

While Canada was ranked 4th in the world for ease of doing business in 2006, it has since slipped to 23rd (as of 2020), primarily due to the increasing burden of government regulations. This stifling regulatory environment, now ranked 53rd globally, is impeding economic growth and investment.

We need a more ambitious approach from the government to accelerate modernization and streamline regulatory processes. The current complex and slow-moving regulatory environment is driving up operating costs for businesses, particularly small businesses, which lack the resources to navigate these challenges effectively. Mr. Greco proposed three key recommendations to the committee.

- Implementing an economic and competitiveness mandate for federal regulators;
- Ensuring regulatory alignment across domestic and international jurisdictions; and
- Providing regulatory certainty to businesses through evidence-based regulations.

He emphasized that these measures are crucial to create an environment where businesses can thrive and contribute to Canada's economic success.

“It goes without saying that the right policy environment can help businesses succeed and generate long-term economic growth for the country. Making Canada an attractive destination for business investment that supports economic growth requires getting the fundamentals right.” Greco said.

The regulatory burden is troublesome in several ways, but two stand out. First, we can't continue to move at a snail's pace – we need the government to be more ambitious. We need the government to accelerate modernization and ensure approvals and permitting can meet our public policy ambition.

Second, the ongoing ability of companies to comply with complex regulations is increasing operating costs. It is consistently one of the biggest barriers to economic growth.

According to the SME Regulatory Compliance Cost report, the total regulatory compliance cost to small businesses was nearly \$5 billion in 2011, which at the time

was approximately \$3,500 per business. That number has no doubt increased over the past decade along with the regulatory burden overall.

We cannot afford for more private sector investment decisions to be sidelined because of the complex regulatory environment in Canada. Too often, we hear from Chamber members about the investments they have on hold while they wait for direction from the government. Lack of clarity and speed on the new investment tax credits is a good example: while other jurisdictions, such as the United States move quickly to create the conditions for investment, Canada is falling behind. Investment will not wait – it will go where it is wanted.

Many Chamber members also cite increased red tape and differing certification and technical standards as major obstacles to doing business within Canada. Complying with a complex network of overlapping regulations from all levels of government is expensive and time-consuming. When combined with inefficient and unpredictable regulatory processes, this sets businesses up for failure.

All of these issues are especially potent for small businesses, which usually lack the resources of larger companies to manage regulation and compliance.

While he commended the government for pushing a regulatory modernization agenda, he noted we must move more boldly and urgently. We cannot just talk the talk—we need to see real action that will move the needle.

Evidence-based regulations can both protect the public interest and promote market success.

And for companies looking to invest billions of dollars in developing new pipelines, new mines, and other large-scale infrastructure projects, this is not a “nice to have”. It is a “must-have.”

Canada needs smarter regulatory systems, better processes, and well-designed regulations to help minimize the costs to business and unlock economic growth while improving public health and safety outcomes.

Sustained collaboration with all levels of government and our international partners will make it easier for businesses to do what they do best—produce.