



16 February 2017

Matt DeCoursey, MP
494 Queen Street (Main Office), Suite 300
Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 1B6

Dear Mr DeCoursey:

Re: Building a Canada that Wins

On behalf of the members of the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce, I would like to convey the importance of restoring Canada's competitiveness to the business community in our constituency and to the constituents within the riding who depend upon a vibrant business sector in Fredericton to support families within our region.

This is a time of both challenge and opportunity for Canada. The global economy's slow growth and the rising tide of protectionism and geopolitical insecurity provides an uncertain canvas on which to paint the Canadian picture. Canada can't remain idle while its competitors forge ahead.

The Canadian Chamber network, comprised of chambers of commerce, including the Fredericton chamber, associations, large corporations and small businesses, has identified 10 key opportunities Canada can seize right now to regain its competitiveness, improve its productivity and grow its economy.

Canada continues to possess important advantages, including its rich resource inheritance, the skills and industry of its citizens and its proximity to the world's richest market. With imagination and plain hard work, we can translate these advantages into business success that will benefit every Canadian family.

Ten Ways to Build a Canada that Wins

Promote Innovation and Harness the Power of Data

Canada's innovation agenda must leverage the private sector and help companies get from idea to product. Harnessing the power of "big data" and ensuring data are secure will also be critical to competitive success.



Fight Global Protectionism

As a trade-dependent nation, Canada must combat protectionism by leveraging its critical resources and other products and services its partners need. The completion of CETA and the Trade in Services Agreement will also open markets to Canadian business.

Upgrade Canada's Regulatory System to Get Natural Resources and Other Exports to World Markets

Canada needs a regulatory environment that makes it possible to develop natural resource projects and to build the infrastructure required to get those resources to customers. Its regulatory system must also be open, transparent, fact-based and efficient.

Work with Business to Combat Climate Change and Maintain Canada's Competitiveness

Canada needs a national carbon-pricing policy that has one objective: lowering GHG emissions while preserving Canada's competitiveness. For the benefit of the environment and of the economy, Canadian business must be at the centre of the design and execution of Canada's climate change strategy.

Build Canada's Brand

Canada must provide reliable and sufficient funding to Destination Canada's international marketing budget. A well-marketed national brand would increase foreign investment, encourage the world's most talented people to immigrate to Canada and add value to quality-dependent exports, like agri-food products.

Grow Small Business to Take on the World

Canada must ensure small businesses have innovative access to capital, the talent and the programs that will get their goods to international markets so they can grow and flourish in the global economy.

Build Digital Skills to Compete in the New Talent Economy

Canada must build its capacity to harness digital technologies and apply them across its economy. It must also grow its pool of information and communications technology workers by encouraging student enrolment in computer-centric fields, improving the digital literacy of Canadians or hiring foreign workers.

Assure Better Access to Capital for Indigenous Entrepreneurs

Canada must support Indigenous entrepreneurs in their efforts to access the capital needed to invest in equipment, training and other tools that can translate the benefits of short-to-medium-term projects into the long-term benefits of jobs and wealth for their communities.



**FREDERICTON
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**

— The Voice of Business —

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Dismantle Internal Barriers that Cost Consumers and Discourage Investors

Canada must develop a new Agreement on Internal Trade that includes the mutual recognition of regulations. Allowing business to operate more freely between provinces and territories will increase economic growth and job creation.

Encourage Investment by Cutting the Cost of Doing Business in Canada

Canada must reduce the cost of doing business in this country. Reducing those rising costs will provide a significant boost to our competitiveness and leave more money for businesses to invest.

I have included additional information on each of the Ten Ways - we believe that each is applicable to our region (some more than others, of course). We would welcome the opportunity to discuss one or all of them—and how we can work together—with you.

Sincerely,

Paul Simmonds
Robert Simmonds Clothing
President, Fredericton Chamber of Commerce

Krista Ross, CEO
Fredericton Chamber of Commerce