

Increased Taxes, Increased Spending, but No Real Plan for Business Growth

Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce CEO Darla Lindbjerg responds to the Federal Budget

“The 2018 Budget presents a variety of spending measures, most of which miss the mark for supporting economic development in Canada and encouraging vital business investment,” says Darla Lindbjerg, CEO of the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce.

“While some measures such as the support funding for women entrepreneurs and Indigenous self-determination is certainly positive news, we still see a budget that focused on spending more and didn't address ways to spark increased business investment in our economy,” continued Lindbjerg.

The Saskatoon Chamber is also disappointed in the lack of a concrete and responsible plan to balance the budget, and the unrealistic economic expectations laid out in the budget.

“The budget projections are based on some pretty rosy fiscal projections, which will be difficult to meet over the next few years,” states Lindbjerg. “There's no plan to mitigate the reduced Canadian competitive position in the market relative to the United States, who are undertaking the most massive tax and regulatory update in generations.”

The Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce supports the Canadian Chamber of Commerce's position on the Federal budget.

“The cost of running a business in Canada is rising rapidly,” said the Hon. Perrin Beatty, President and CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. “Without a strong private sector, there's no way to pay for all this spending, except by sending the bill to our kids.”

“By adding a further \$27 billion to the national debt in 2018, the government appears to believe that we can spend our way to prosperity. If Ottawa continues to run up the debt when times are good, we can only speculate on what our national finances will look like next time there is a downturn,” said Mr. Beatty.

About the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce

Established in 1903, the Chamber represents the interests of over 1,400 businesses in Saskatoon and area, and is the voice of business in our community.

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