

Greater Saskatoon and Saskatchewan Chambers outline election issues

***OnTrack 2016* aims to spur conversation, drive political focus during election campaign**

SASKATOON, March 7, 2016 - In advance of the Writ being dropped for the April 4 provincial election, the Greater Saskatoon Chamber has joined the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce in promoting *OnTrack 2016* – a document which outlines 31 ideas within eight major categories which face business.

“We encourage candidates from all parties to integrate recommendations from the *On Track 2016* document into their campaign platforms. Doing so will improve our province’s productivity, and better position our business community to compete on the global stage,” said Kent Smith-Windsor, Executive Director of the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce.

“The ideas within *OnTrack 2016* affect the way that all the people in this province live, work and invest. As a province, we have seen very positive changes in our economy and our culture, but the work isn’t done. We want to see the next government continue the economic momentum, and believe it is imperative to stay on track with this progress – and so, we created these suggestions, and categorized them into eight general areas,” said Steve McLellan, CEO of the Saskatchewan Chamber.

The eight categories, titled “Top 8 Opportunities for Continued Growth” include recommendations for ways to strengthen the province’s taxation and fiscal framework, support infrastructure enhancement, build and utilize water resources, attract and grow investment, strengthen the education system, accelerate northern economic development, utilize alternative service delivery and enhance workforce skills training. Items such as integration of entrepreneurship and business skills training in all levels of k-12 education, changing the assessment cycle for property value from four years to two years, moving to a dual-rate personal income tax structure of 9% and 12%, and the creation of a comprehensive Water Resource Strategic Plan into their political platforms are of importance both locally and provincially.

“We invite Saskatchewan voters to take a closer look at *OnTrack 2016* to determine which of these issues they support most strongly, and speak to the candidates in their riding about the direction those candidates’ parties are going to take, if elected,” McLellan said.

“We encourage people to read the document, share it and use it as a basis to encourage the provincial government – whoever is elected on April 4 – to create an even stronger province.”

The full *OnTrack 2016* document and additional background information on the 31 ideas it includes may be found on the Saskatchewan Chamber website at www.saskchamber.com.

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