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GREATER SASKATOON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE “TARGET 8,000” UPDATE

Saskatoon shows positive employment growth in 2015

SASKATOON - According to Statistics Canada’s Labour Force Survey, the Saskatoon region gained a total of 300 new jobs in 2015.

“In the face of a slowdown in several key sectors of the Saskatoon economy, businesses still created net new jobs, which is certainly positive” stated Kent Smith-Windsor, Executive Director of the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce. “Disappointingly, a strong job creation rate throughout the fall season was offset by a slow first half of the year, meaning only modest job growth was achieved in the region for the calendar year,” said Smith-Windsor.

Despite the shortfall against the Chamber’s aggressive target of 8000 net new jobs per year, Chamber President Tanya Knight remains confident in the state of the local economy. “It is important to note that Saskatoon remains one of the top performing cities in the country in terms of job growth over the long term,” said Knight. “While first-half numbers from Statistics Canada were certainly not as positive as we’d like them to be, a three month turnaround has reversed that trend and employment growth has returned. This should give us confidence that growth will continue over the coming year.”

“To return to the path of strong, sustainable employment growth, we call on government to focus on increasing productivity and remain steadfast in their efforts to create the best business climate in Canada,” said Smith-Windsor. “This focus on value for tax costs will provide the confidence necessary to spur business investment within the region, and continue both Saskatoon and Saskatchewan on the path of growth and opportunity,” concluded Smith-Windsor.

About the “Target 8000” Project

The *Target 8000 Project* is an initiative of the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce produced to track job creation performance. The Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce continues to press for ongoing and continual improvement in government policies at the municipal, provincial and federal levels to increase business investment in Saskatoon to levels sufficient to create job opportunities for young people in the city. To spur investment, our province must adopt a full implementation of the Canada West tax policy report “A Change Today for Your Tomorrow”. Furthermore, our city and region, our province, and the federal government must streamline its regulatory structure in order to foster this much-needed investment.

The project sets an aggressive goal of creating 8000 jobs each year, which represents the number of jobs that are needed to create sufficient employment opportunities for all local post-secondary graduates to begin their careers without having to look elsewhere for opportunity. Because of the cluster of educational institutions and training programs within the area, Saskatoon has the capacity to grow its labour force faster than other Western Canadian city.

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