

New West Partnership Agreement Welcomed by Provincial Chamber

Internal trade barriers have been a long standing issue for Saskatchewan businesses. They compound inefficiencies and cost excesses while hampering the provision of services. The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce has been urging the Provincial Government to start addressing this problem for more than a decade.

“The New West Partnership is an important step towards reducing internal trade barriers, at least in western Canada,” said Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce CEO Steve McLellan. “We applaud the government for this initiative and look forward to its full implementation.”

Saskatchewan is home to world class businesses that are capable of competing and succeeding on a national and international level. The New West Partnership opens the door to new opportunities and provides these organizations with incentive to expand.

The provincial Chamber is pleased that regulatory simplification is a focus of the partnership agreement. The elimination of unnecessary differences in provincial business and occupation-related regulations and standards will support economic growth and enhance the competitiveness of Saskatchewan businesses in larger western markets.

“Saskatchewan has been and continues to be the most trade dependent province in the most trade dependent nation in the world,” continued McLellan. “Just as Saskatchewan has benefited from the economic opportunities that arose from international trade agreements, the province will surely benefit from greater interprovincial economic integration.”

Also adding strength to this partnership is the fact that it looks at joint activities beyond Canada’s borders.

“Asian markets offer a huge opportunity that Saskatchewan exporters are just starting to capitalize on. Partnering with BC and Alberta, provinces already leading Canada in Asian exports, can only help increase Saskatchewan’s profile abroad,” said McLellan.

The savings achieved through streamlined and joint purchasing arrangements, as well as the increased coordination on innovative initiatives planned through the partnership, will also have a positive, although slightly less tangible, impact on the business community, helping to create a more attractive, competitive and prosperous region.

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The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce represents the interest of our members from throughout the province by advocating for expanded opportunities and regulatory simplification. The Chamber launched a Growth Strategy in October of 2007 to encourage and help facilitate strategic growth, it can be found at www.saskchamber.com.

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