

**The Honorable Ken Cheveldayoff**  
**Minister of Advanced Education**  
**Members of the Saskatchewan Cabinet**  
**Government of Saskatchewan**  
**Room 307, 2405 Legislative Drive,**  
**Regina, SK,**  
**S4S 0B3**

**February 14, 2025**

Dear Minister Cheveldayoff and Members of Cabinet,

**Re: Key Issues for the Saskatoon Business Community**

First off, I would like to thank you for taking the time to meet with myself and the Board Members of the NSBA. We value the opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue about the key issues impacting Saskatchewan businesses and communities, and we appreciate your commitment to addressing these important matters.

**Crime and Safety**

Ensuring public safety is paramount to fostering a thriving province. We urge the Government of Saskatchewan to continue taking decisive action in holding criminals accountable and enhancing enforcement measures that protect our communities. Additionally, we advocate for direct payments to landlords to prevent housing instability, as well as a comprehensive homelessness strategy developed in collaboration with municipalities. Addressing these challenges requires a coordinated approach that prioritizes both enforcement and social support systems.

**Saskatchewan's Competitiveness**

To strengthen Saskatchewan's economic position, we encourage efforts to reduce market barriers and enhance interprovincial trade. Leading the way in eliminating restrictions will enable Saskatchewan to set an example for the rest of the country.

Furthermore, we support the development of a nation-building strategy that advances critical infrastructure, including pipelines and refineries, to enhance our energy sector's sustainability and competitiveness. We also strongly recommend the removal of the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) on construction labour, used vehicles, and homes —measures that would alleviate financial burdens on Saskatchewan families and businesses.

We have previously recommended harmonizing our tax system by incorporating a Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) model and continue to advocate for this as a means to simplify taxation, attract investment, and drive economic growth.

### **Workforce Retention**

A strong and skilled workforce is essential to sustaining our economic prosperity. We encourage greater recognition of professional accreditation from other jurisdictions, which would ease the transition for skilled workers seeking to contribute to Saskatchewan's economy. Additionally, we propose the development of a provincial employment recruitment and retention strategy in collaboration with First Nations partners to ensure a diverse and inclusive workforce that meets industry demands.

### **Investment in Education**

Underlying each of these issues is the fundamental importance of investment in education. A well-funded education system is critical to developing the skilled workforce required to support Saskatchewan's future growth. We urge the government to prioritize investments that strengthen educational opportunities at all levels.

We appreciate your leadership and your commitment to working alongside businesses, municipalities, and communities to build a stronger Saskatchewan. Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to continued collaboration in achieving these shared objectives.

Sincerely,



Keith Moen  
Executive Director, NSBA

CC:  
Premier Scott Moe