



REGINA & DISTRICT CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

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From the Desk of the CEO

The Federal Election is upon us and will no doubt bring the usual promises, attack ads and planned media stunts.

Our Chamber will be active in a number of ways including hosting a series of debates where you, our members, get an opportunity to ask questions. We will also be asking the candidates questions about federal finances and our economic future.

In addition, I will continue to comment on the election as we draw closer to election day. Will we see change? My guess is that not much will change but I will be watching for what happens in Quebec, the 905 area code in Ontario and to see if any western separatists are elected.

One of my personal views is that we need a plan to get us back to balanced budgets. I understand that the debt to GDP ratio is in vogue but how many generations will it take to get our fiscal house in order? The ticking time bomb is what will happen when interest rates rise and increase our debt service ratios?

This month marks my 20th year at the Regina & District Chamber of Commerce. I was overwhelmed and very appreciative of the barbeque in my honour, loved that The Garage Band played, and was blown away by the number of people who attended, including our Mayor and our Premier.

I also want to thank the Committee and my staff for putting on such a fantastic event. Moreover, I want to thank you, our members, who have provided me with the privilege of being your CEO for so many years. We have fought in the trenches on the Corporate Tax Changes the Feds proposed.

We fought Canada's biggest union in the waste water treatment plant referendum and we fought long and hard to build Canada's finest stadium. The list goes on but what I am trying to say is that I am so proud of our Chamber because we are not scared to stand up and be counted. We will fight and pull out all the stops.

Chief Cadmus Delorme is like a brother to me. I can't say enough about his style which is so connected to the people of Cowessess First Nation, not only for the people of today but for those who will come.

We have worked together on a number of projects including Reconciliation, the new Tim Hortons on 7th and Albert, the solar farm just outside the city and so much more. Thank you Chief for your very kind gift. I will treasure it for the rest of my life.

Last, but most importantly, I want to thank my family who have supported me through the

best times in my life and the the most challenging. I have missed birthdays and special events because of my career but you have always been there for me. I love all of you and always will.

Sorry but I have to carry this message, if you are a man over the age of 40 please get your prostate checked. It just might save your life. The last thing you want is Stage Four Metastatic Prostate Cancer because it just might take your life.

Have a great Regina Day!

John Hopkins



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