



CHAMBERLINK



Federal budget missed the mark for small & medium sized businesses

By TONY PLAYTER
Interim CEO, Regina & District Chamber of Commerce

When the federal government released its 2022 budget last week, it missed a chance to ease the burden on small and medium sized businesses (SME). It was disappointing to see the lack of strategic direction to grow our economy and a lost opportunity to provide us with a solid definition on how current government spending will provide a positive economic return.

There needed to be a stronger investment of our tax dollars to create an immediate impact for entrepreneurs, who are the backbone of Canadian business. Given everything the business community has faced over the last couple of years, it has never been more important for the federal government to focus on economic growth.

We feel strongly that future federal spending needs to be both fiscally responsible and targeted to generate genuine economic returns.

Unfortunately, this budget missed several elements that are needed to generate much-needed economic investment and growth including:

- The absence of debt relief and support programs for SMEs.
- A lack private sector cybersecurity support.
- Only a partial review of the tax system rather than a comprehensive review.

While much more was expected from the budget, there were a number of initiatives that will help business growth both directly and indirectly including:

- The gradual phase out of the small business tax rate.
- Investments in the critical minerals industry.
- Various measures to support the net-zero transition.
- Funding towards a trusted employer program for Temporary Foreign Workers that will address labour shortages.
- Significant housing initiatives.
- Development of the national pharmacare dental program.

Even with these positive aspects of the budget, it's very disappointing that there is a lack of direct economic stimulation for SMEs. Many business owners still are still struggling with short-term debt servicing that will impede their ability to grow and prosper. This needs to be addressed immediately through government supported debt relief programs.

We believe that the best opportunity to stimulate our economy is to empower small and medium-sized businesses. Canada was built on the hopes and dreams of entrepreneurs and this budget is holding back their entrepreneurial spirit.

The federal government needs to embrace the fact that Canada is a diverse and creative society with a well-educated work force and abundant natural resources. We can once again be recognized as a great nation and an economic powerhouse, once the Liberal government empowers and supports small and medium business.

UPCOMING REGINA CHAMBER EVENTS

WED., APRIL 13

2022 Luncheon Series -- Saskatchewan's Polytechnic Advantage

Featuring Dr. Larry Rosia, President & CEO of Saskatchewan Polytechnic
Atlas Hotel

11:30 a.m. -- 1 p.m.

Presented by TD



THURS., APRIL 21

2022 Speed Networking

A quick way to expand your professional contacts!

The Williston Harbour Landing

5 p.m. -- 7 p.m.



WED., APRIL 27

40th Annual "Take A Break" Luncheon

An opportunity to recognize your support staff during
Administrative Professionals Week.

Delta Regina

11:30 a.m. -- Buffet luncheon

Entertainment: Norma McKnight, ventriloquist/comedian
extraordinaire.

Signature Sponsor: SaskTel Business Solutions



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For more information or to register for any of these outstanding Chamber events click [HERE](#)

"We acknowledge, with respect and truth, that we work and support the business community in Treaty 4 Territory and the traditional lands of the nêhiyawak (Cree), Anihşināpēk (Saulteaux), Dakota, Lakota, Nakoda, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation."

Congratulations to the 2022 Business of the Year award nominees on their achievement!

- Westridge Construction
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SaskAlert app is a helpful tool for emergency incidents

A storm system is expected to bring blizzard conditions with wet heavy snow to parts of southeast Saskatchewan starting as early as Tuesday evening. The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency reminds residents in the area that SaskAlert is the Government of Saskatchewan's emergency public alerting program. SaskAlert provides critical information on emergencies in real time, so residents can take action to protect themselves, their families and their property.



Emergency alerts issued through SaskAlert will:

- include what the emergency is;
- include where the emergency is happening;
- provide instructions; and,
- advise when the incident is over.

The SaskAlert app is a free download, and users can personalize the app and determine what alerts they receive using these [instructions](#).

Environment Canada is the agency responsible for issuing all types and levels of weather-related alerts, including advisories and special weather statements, watches and warnings. However, weather alerts that have potential to affect life and safety will be distributed through SaskAlert.

In addition to downloading the SaskAlert app, residents are encouraged to be sure they have a 72-hour preparedness kit ready. Visit saskpublicsafety.ca or getprepared.ca for more information about preparing for [winter storms](#) and [power outages](#). Travelers are

encouraged to check the [Highway Hotline](#) for highway conditions and road closures before they leave.

To learn more about the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency, visit saskpublicsafety.ca.

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