



February 2, 2010

Lavar Payne, MP
Medicine Hat Constituency
6 – 403 2nd Avenue West
PO Box 640
Brooks, Alberta T1R 1B6

Honorable Mr. Payne:

Thank you for the invitation to provide input into the development of the upcoming Government of Canada budget.

Overall, the Brooks and District Chamber of Commerce (BDCC) believes the federal government is on the right track with its current economic action plan. However we would like to continue to ask our government to develop a clear plan to avoid any further deficit accumulation. We would like to see our government target a goal of limiting spending growth to between 2% and 3% of population growth beginning with the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Having said that, the BDCC would still like the federal government to continue with capital infrastructure projects as best they can for another year to support our continued economic growth and take advantage of lower labour and material costs for capital projects. The BDCC is aware of the amount of federal support our community has received over the past few months for a variety of projects that will ensure our community is a desirable place to live and to conduct business.

More specifically the BDCC realizes the importance of tourism as a significant economic engine for our community, and any further support we might receive for projects that will enable our local businesses to take advantage of servicing more tourists in our area will be appreciated.

We would also like to see our government continue with, and expand tax credits for energy conservation for businesses, including home renovations. These programs, while providing tax relief for home and business owners, also provide another opportunity for smaller and medium sized businesses to employ workers and contribute to our local economy.

Immigration and related funding continues to be a major issue in our community. While the amount of immigrants arriving in our community has seen some decline lately, there are still issues related to lack of funding which can follow immigrants from their original port of entry to help them settle and integrate into our community. Although temporary foreign workers are a shared responsibility between the federal and provincial governments, we would like to see more opportunities for TFW's to access language and skill training while in Canada, to increase their benefit to Canadian businesses and make it easier for them to integrate into our society when they eventually apply to stay in Canada.

On behalf of the Brooks and District Chamber of Commerce, we want to thank you for your efforts to represent our community at the federal government level. If you have any questions about any items we have mentioned in this letter or wish to discuss any other ideas or items, please contact us and we would be happy to visit with you.

Sincerely,

Reg Radke
President
Brooks and District Chamber of Commerce