

October 22, 2015

## New ministry to focus on economic development

The Alberta Chambers of Commerce strongly supports the creation of a new ministry of Economic Development and Trade. This ministry will support economic growth and diversification for Alberta's economy and job creation by Alberta's businesses.

The new ministry will be responsible for coordinating the research and innovation system to support commercialization of Alberta ideas, expanding access to capital for small- and medium-sized enterprises, and promoting trade and investment into Alberta.

"By creating a new Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, this government has made it clear that the economy is a priority. It's important that we have a partner dedicated to helping grow and diversify the provincial economy, so our organization is looking forward to working with government on these initiatives to help make Alberta the best place in the country to start and operate a business."

- *President and CEO of Alberta Chambers of Commerce Ken Kobly*

The Alberta Chambers of Commerce is particularly pleased to see the new ministry's priority for expanding access to capital for small- and medium-sized enterprises. Access to capital has been a long-standing challenge to the creation of new businesses and scale-up of existing businesses who want to take their enterprises to the next level of growth as employers. Business growth and support of start-ups is critical to job creation and Alberta's long term economic competitiveness.

By demonstrating a willingness to work with business partners and take action to align departments responsible for economic development, the creation of this new ministry sends a strong signal to the business community that this government is willing to thoughtfully review and focus their operations to effectively deliver on key priorities and support the job creators of Alberta.

-- 30 --

*The Alberta Chambers of Commerce is a federation of 128 chambers representing 24,000 businesses.*

For further information, please contact:

Ken Kobly, President and CEO  
Alberta Chambers of Commerce  
780.975.1659