

# Memo



**To:** All Members of Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce Committees and Task Forces

**From:** Steve McLellan, CEO

**Date:** November 7, 2017

**Re:** Changes in Committee Structure

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For many decades, the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce has utilized Expert Committees to engage members, identify and act upon issues of importance, and create policy. This work – your work – is important and has delivered many positive results over the years. And on behalf of the entire Board, staff and membership, I thank you for your commitment of time and expertise.

However, with changing times come changing demands and we recognize that your time has become an incredibly valuable resource. With a decrease in numbers and ability to participate on Expert Committees, the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce recently undertook a review of the current Committee structure. This review examined how we can best use our members' valuable time to gain information and ensure that we are providing the right engagement options to our members.

First, we considered the importance of our staff and Board remaining in contact with our members. Our members play a critical role in identifying key issues and opportunities that may still be on the horizon. As a result, we have made it a priority to increase face to face interaction with our members through community consultations, policy roundtable sessions, and regular contact with local chambers.

We also considered the different needs of our younger members and their inclination to use different forums to meet and discuss issues. Through 100-Day Task Forces, we hope to engage a representative membership by bringing together experts on key issues within a clearly defined period to create a useable advocacy product.

Finally, we considered how the current Committee structure aligns with our Strategic Plan. With a narrowed lens on select key issues, our staff and Board can better serve our members and react to important issues as they arise.

Overall, this review was beneficial, and we believe its results will increase member engagement and output on key issues.

Changes effective December 31, 2017:

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The Environment, Finance, Human Resources, Investment & Growth, and Youth, Education & Training Expert Committees will cease to meet effective December 31, 2017.

In place of these committees, Expert Advisory Panels will be created on select key issues that correspond with the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce's Strategic Plan. Members with expertise on a select key issue will be invited to participate on an Expert Advisory Panel. The role of Panel members will be to monitor the respective key issues and report any relevant data to Panel members and the Chamber. Most communications will be via e-mail; however, an in-person meeting or conference call may be required from time to time as determined by members of the Panel.

A Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce Director will sit on each Expert Advisory Panel. This Director will be responsible for ensuring that engagement is productive and regular between members of the Panel as well as the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce.

The expected Expert Advisory Panels starting January 2018 will include:

- Environmental Expert Advisory Panel
- Labour Market Sustainability
- Indigenous Engagement

Our first 100-Day Task Force on Energy Efficiency successfully produced a report on Energy Conservation that will soon be released to the public. We anticipate a new 100-Day Task Force being put in place early in the new year on another key issue.

The Northern Business Task Force will continue to monitor results of the 2014 Report and will coordinate an annual tour of northern Saskatchewan for business representatives and government officials.

The Water Council for Saskatchewan will also continue in its present state and the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce will move it towards eventually being a standalone entity as outlined in its mandate.

There are also several other actions we will either be continuing or initiating to ensure all members who wish to offer advice or engage in dialogue have easy opportunity to do so. They include:

- Ongoing policy roundtable discussions in communities throughout the province
  - Breakfast and lunch events to specifically solicit feedback from SCC members on select issues
  - Provincial Political Forum where members meet with opposition and Cabinet, including the Premier
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- Chair's Invitational Dinner where members meet with Deputy Ministers and Crown Presidents
  - Make a Connection Breakfast where members meet with Deputy Ministers and Crown Presidents
  - Thought Leadership events held on select key issues
  - Various summits on timely issues – i.e. P3 Summit held in 2013/14
  - Ongoing membership engagement calls, surveys, and visits to members

We believe these various actions will serve the Chamber and our members well. However, if you have comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and staff sincerely appreciate the expertise of our members and we never forget that it is your voice that we represent.

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