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April 21st, 2021

Office of the Premier
Executive Branch
307 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Dear Premier Kenney:

Following our letter of March 18th and the session hosted by the Red Deer and District Chamber of Commerce on April 14th, we wanted to express our gratitude for considering our question posed during that session and considering revisiting another formation of the [Economic Recovery Council](#) formed in Spring 2020.

We also appreciate the third installment of the SME Relaunch Grant and including hotels in that program. Thank you for also considering the room tax exemption and potentially extending that program.

There have been significant concerns with our recovery from business and industry, not only getting through the pandemic but also managing our recovery. We request that Government give serious consideration to setting up an industry roundtable comprised of industry and business association representatives to establish a 'war room' to discuss the path forward and obtain industry expertise and insight. This could be similar to the federal Industry Strategy Council, broader than the cabinet committee and more potentially more diverse than the Economic Strategy Council that concluded in June 2020. This could be comprised of representatives from the industry associations to have a more comprehensive representation of industries and business members.

With the growing frustrations from the Alberta business community, the length of this pandemic, the ever-increasing mental health and financial challenges and the ongoing uncertainty, this level of collaboration and communication is necessary and needs to be revisited.

A Government and Industry Council can work to address the three primary issues impacting our business community right now, including:

1. Ongoing financial challenges
2. Growing mental health concerns
3. A need for greater clarity and certainty in information and re-opening plans

As stated in our letter of March 18th, we believe that there are balanced solutions to all three of these challenges that would address the financial needs, mental health supports required, clarity of information in the re-opening plans, and ideally increase the level of confidence in this Government.

We ask that you work with business support organizations like ours to provide the necessary life support to the businesses that are the heartbeat of our economy, to keep these businesses going until we are into a more stable recovery phase. We are ready and willing to provide the advice, information, and recommendations to move our economy along and communicate this back out to our business community. Thank you, and we would be happy to be involved in whatever way we can.

Sincerely,



Marcus Campbell, President
2020-2021 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Cc: Minister of Jobs, Economy and Innovation, Minister Doug Schweitzer
Minister of Health, Minister Tyler Shandro
Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Jason Luan
Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business and Tourism, Martin Long
Alberta Chambers of Commerce
Brooks-Medicine Hat MLA, Michaela Glasgo
Cypress-Medicine Hat MLA, Drew Barnes