

2016 Policy Resolution Activity Update

FINANCE AND TAXATION			
For more information, contact: Hendrik Brakel, hbrakel@chamber.ca			
Resolution	CCC Actions Taken	Planned CCC Actions	Government Actions to Date
Acknowledgement of the Base Principles of Pension Reform	Dec.19/16 - Letter to Hon. William Morneau, Minister of Finance The Canadian Chamber opposed the expansion of CPP through meetings with Finance, articles in the media http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/cpp-deal-is-devastating-move-businesses-warn/article30535514/ Interviews on BNN: http://www.bnn.ca/canada/video/canadian-chamber-of-commerce-blasts-cpp-expansion-896187 And we wrote a 5 minutes for Business http://chamber.ca/download.aspx?t=0&pid=936cb4fd-3527-e611-8828-005056a00b05		The Government of Canada has gone ahead with a modest version of CPP enhancement which is almost half the cost of ORPP and will be phased in over 5 years beginning in 2019.
Addressing Barriers to Succession Planning for Small to Medium Enterprises	Dec./16 - Letters to Hon. Bardish Chagger, Minister of Small Business and Tourism, and to Hon. William Morneau, Minister of Finance Briefed finance dept officials on March 3, 2016 as part of discussion of tax reform.		
Applying the Accelerated Capital Cost Allowance to Oil Sands, Upgrading and Petrochemical Industries (Renewal)	Dec./16 - Letters to Hon. William Morneau, Minister of Finance, and to Hon. James Carr, Minister of Natural Resources		
Canada as a Global Leader in Venture Capital Financing	Dec.19/16 - Letters to Hon. William Morneau, Minister of Finance, and to Hon. Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development. These recommendations were included in the Chamber's pre-budget submission, and in our submission on innovation.		

Credit Card Merchant Fees	Dec.19/16 - Letter to Hon. William Morneau, Minister of Finance Briefed Finance on January 10, 2017 as part of their review of the Federal Financial Sector Framework.		
Deferral of Capital Gains Taxation	Dec.19/16 - Letter to Hon. William Morneau, Minister of Finance		
Employment Insurance (EI) Reform	Dec./16 - Letters to Hon. MaryAnn Mihychuk, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, and to Hon. William Morneau, Minister of Finance Recommendations were included in the Chamber's pre-budget submission.		
Federal Fiscal Policy (Update/Renewal)	Dec.19/16 - Letter to Hon. William Morneau, Minister of Finance Many of the recommendations were included in the Chamber's pre-budget submission.		
Increase the GST/HST Filing Threshold	Dec.19/16 - Letter to Hon. William Morneau, Minister of Finance Briefed CRA when we hosted roundtables for their "Serving Canadian Better" initiative.		
Restore TFSA Limits to Encourage Retirement Saving	Dec.19/16 - Letter to Hon. William Morneau, Minister of Finance		
Strengthening the Canada Pension Plan to Support the Most At-Risk Canadians	Dec.19/16 - Letter to Hon. William Morneau, Minister of Finance The Canadian Chamber opposed the expansion of CPP through meetings with Finance, articles in the media http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/cpp-deal-is-devastating-move-businesses-warn/article30535514/ Interviews on BNN: http://www.bnn.ca/canada/video/canadian-chamber-of-commerce-blasts-cpp-expansion~896187 And we wrote a 5 minutes for Business http://chamber.ca/download.aspx?t=0&pid=936cb4fd-3527-e611-8828-005056a00b05		The Government of Canada has gone ahead with a modest version of CPP enhancement which is almost half the cost of ORPP and will be phased in over 5 years beginning in 2019.
Tax Fairness for the Sports Entertainment Industry	Dec.19/16 - Letter to Hon. William Morneau, Minister of Finance		

INDUSTRY

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Resolution	CCC Actions Taken	Planned CCC Actions	Government Actions to Date
Reduce Barriers to Foreign Direct Investment	Dec.19/16 - Letters to Hon. Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, and to Hon. William Morneau, Minister of Finance		
All-of-Government Metrics Needed to Measure Federal Procurements Supporting Canadian Innovation Across All Business Sizes	Dec.14/16 - Letter to Hon. Scott Brison, President of the Treasury Board		John Knuble, DM, ISED & ADM, PSPC have mentioned the government is looking at introducing a U.S.-style Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Feb. 16/17 - Minister Chagger (SME & Tourism) states at before a House Committee that the government intends to broaden the scope for SMEs to bid on federal government business, i.e., there will be “billions of dollars” in procurement opportunities.
Bridge the Broadband Gap	Dec.19/16 - Letter to Hon. Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development. Feb 15, Release of Digital Adoption paper and circulation to MPs and officials	Part of Data Innovation and Governance Policy Project, launching mid Q2.	Dec. 21 CRTC Directive - Closing the Broadband Gap: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • speeds of 50 Mbps download/10 Mbps upload for fixed broadband services • an unlimited data option for fixed broadband services • the latest mobile wireless technology available not only to all homes and businesses, but also along major Canadian roads
Development of R&D and Commercializing Innovation	Dec.19/16 - Letter to Hon. Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development. March 1 presentation to Senate Open Caucus		Expecting budget announcements re: funding for tech clusters, artificial intelligence.
Enabling More Canadian Firms to Scale Up	Dec.14/16 - Letter to Hon. Bardish Chagger, Minister of Small Business and Tourism		

Pharmaceuticals - Life Sciences as an Economic and Competitive Driver	Dec.19/16 - Letter to Hon. Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development.Feb 8. Intellectual Property and Innovation presentation to Innovation and Post Secondary Innovation Caucus.	April 3, Presentation on relationship between IP and Innovation to full Liberal Caucus and all members of INDU	
Refining and Remaking the Copyright Board of Canada	Dec.19/16 - Letter to Hon. Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development. Jan 17, joint discussion with Canadian Bar Association on Approach	To be raised with ISED Market Framework DG at upcoming IP Crime Task Force mtg. Date TBD.	
Restoring Canada's Innovation Competitiveness	Dec.19/16 - Letter to Hon. Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development. Jan 18, Mtg with ISED Ministerial staff. Jan 18 Mtg. With Director General, Digital policy Branch.		
The Risks of Cyber Crime - Electronic and Digital Issues	Dec.19/16 - Letter to Hon. Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development. Jan 20 meeting with ISED Senior ADM.	April 3, release of CCC Cyber Security paper. April 4, partnership announcement re: government endorsed cybersecurity certification program	

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

**For more information contact
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Resolution	CCC Actions Taken	Planned CCC Actions	Government Actions to Date
Canada-India Free Trade – Time to Re-engage	<p>Dec.14/16 – Letter to Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Minister of International Trade</p> <p>January 25, 2017: Met with Don Stephenson, Canada’s Chief Negotiator for Canada-India, to discuss update on status of free trade talks.</p>		The mandate letter for the Minister of International Trade, François-Philippe Champagne, mentions India (along with China) as an emerging market where Canada should promote trade and investment. This, under the priority to “Implement and expand Canada’s Free Trade Agreements globally.”
Counter Diafiltered Milk Imports	<p>Dec.14/16 – Letters to Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Minister of International Trade , and to Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food</p>		
Expanding Canada’s Export Capacity Through Harmonizing Agri-Food Cross-Border Trade Regulations	<p>Dec.14/16 – Letters to Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Minister of International Trade , and to Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food</p> <p>May 26, 2017: Discussed progress achieved and plans for the Regulatory Cooperation Council following its move from the Privy Council Office to the Treasury Board Secretariat, with Mr. Robert Carberry, Assistant Secretary, Regulatory Cooperation Council Secretariat.</p> <p>July 29, 2016: Discussed Canada-US Regulatory Cooperation, noting the importance of aligning regulatory processes on both sides of the border, with The Hon Scott Brison.</p>		Bill C-23, the Preclearance Act, has been proposed to the House of Commons.
Investing in Canada’s Trade Infrastructure and Corridors	<p>Dec.14/16 – Letters to Hon. Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, and to Hon. Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport</p> <p>Oct/16 Submission to Transport Canada on the future of Canada’s Transportation System</p>	<p>Continued engagement with Transport Canada and Infrastructure Canada on the program design for trade and transportation infrastructure funding</p> <p>Mar/17 – CCC Board meeting with Minister Garneau</p>	Nov/16 - \$10.1B in new infrastructure funding announced for Trade and Transportation Infrastructure

	<p>Oct/16 Submission to Infrastructure Canada on Phase 2 of the Federal Infrastructure Plan</p> <p>Oct/16 Testimony before Senate Committee on National Finance re: federal infrastructure programs</p> <p>Nov/16 CCC Board Meeting with Minister Sohi</p> <p>Mar/17 Testimony before Senate Committee on Banking Trade and Commerce re: study on the concept of a national transportation and utility corridor</p>		
Prepare Businesses for the Trans-Pacific Partnership	<p>Dec./16 - Letters to Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Minister of International Trade, and to Hon. Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development</p> <p>January 19, 2017: The Hon Perrin Beatty, President and CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, met with Timothy Sargent, Deputy Minister for International Trade. At the meeting, trade with the Asia Pacific was discussed (in the absence of a TPP), as well as preparing Canadian businesses for trade agreements, including CETA.</p>		
Support the Canadian Steel Industry and its Supply Chain Clusters	<p>Dec./16 - Letters to Hon. Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, and to Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Minister of International Trade, and to Hon. William Morneau, Minister of Finance</p>		
The Need for a Renewed Softwood Lumber Agreement	<p>Dec.14/16 - Letters to Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Minister of International Trade, and to Hon. James Carr, Minister of Natural Resources</p> <p>27 February, 2017: The Hon Perrin Beatty, chamber staff, and members of the International Affairs Committee met with Mr. Steve Verheul, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Trade Policy and Negotiations, Global Affairs Canada. At the meeting, attendees discussed the need for a new softwood lumber agreement.</p>		<p>The Minister of Natural Resources, the Hon Jim Carr, has announced the creation of a Federal-Provincial task force on Softwood Lumber. Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon Chrystia Freeland, leads softwood lumber engagement with the United States.</p>

HUMAN RESOURCES

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Resolution	CCC Actions Taken	Planned CCC Actions	Government Actions to Date
A Canada Jobs Grant Program for All Canadian Business	Dec.14/16 - Letter to Hon. MaryAnn Mihychuk, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour	March 7- Perrin will be meeting with Minister Hajdu to discuss issues around her portfolio and ministerial resolution letters on March	
A Talent Strategy Must Be Part of an Innovation Agenda	Dec./16 - Letters to Hon. Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, and to Hon. MaryAnn Mihychuk, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour Nov - release of Innovation Skills project w/recommendations	Meeting w/Minister Hajdu March 28 - CCC to participate in "Advisory Council on Learning"	December 20 2016 - Release of "Innovation Agenda" background priorities, highlighting need for action in 3 areas (people, technologies and companies). Specific focuses include diversity in STEM, innovation networks/ clusters, capital access for companies and other areas.
Addressing the Labour Shortage of Commercial Truck Drivers	Dec.14/16 - Letter to Hon. MaryAnn Mihychuk, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour	Meeting w/Minister Hajdu March 28 - CCC to participate in "Advisory Council on Learning"	
Expanding Options for Canada's Private Educational Institutions (Renewal)	Dec.14/16 - Letter to Hon. MaryAnn Mihychuk, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour	Meeting w/Minister Hajdu March 28 - CCC to participate in "Advisory Council on Learning"	
Filling the Gap through Economic Immigration	Dec.14/16 - Letter to Hon. John McCallum, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Jan 13 - Follow up communication to minister Hussen and staff on his appointment	CCC to participate in "Global Skills Strategy" roundtable on March 9 2017.	Nov. 19 th - Eliminated requirement for LMIA-backed job offer for certain qualifying job offers. points for job offers based on NOC skill level. Government announcement of global skills strategy and "global talent stream".

<p>Fueling Job Growth through Innovation</p>	<p>Dec./16 - Letters to Hon. Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, and to Hon. MaryAnn Mihychuk, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour</p>	<p>Meeting w/Minister Hajdu March 28 - CCC to participate in "Advisory Council on Learning"</p>	<p>Government announcement of global skills strategy and "global talent stream". Additional measures in budget TBD.</p>
<p>Improving the Express Entry System for International Student Graduates</p>	<p>Dec.14/16 - Letters to Hon. John McCallum, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, and to Hon. MaryAnn Mihychuk, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour</p>	<p>CCC to participate in "Global Skills Strategy" roundtable on March 9th 2017.</p>	<p>November 19 - New Points awarded in express entry for international graduates (see: http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/media/notices/2016-11-19.asp).</p>

NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT

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Resolution	CCC Actions Taken	Planned CCC Actions	Government Actions to Date
Domestic and Industrial Reclaimed Water Use	Dec.14/16 - Letter to Hon. Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change		
Electricity in Canada - Power for Future Competitiveness	Dec.14/16 - Letters to Hon. James Carr, Minister of Natural Resources, and to Hon. Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities	The Canadian Chamber will participate in expert panel consultations on the <i>National Energy Board Act</i> . Our submission will be compiled in cooperation with five local chambers from across Canada.	The Pan-Canadian Framework for Clean growth and climate change mentions support for east-west interconnections between provinces. Several reviews of environmental and energy regulation are underway. While provinces have agreed to re-open the agreement on internal trade, it seems unlikely that energy will liberalized in these negotiations.
Ensuring the Future of Canadian Oil and Gas	Dec.14/16 - Letter to Hon. James Carr, Minister of Natural Resources	<p>The Canadian Chamber will participate in expert panel consultations on the <i>National Energy Board Act</i>. Our submission will be compiled in cooperation with five local chambers from across Canada.</p> <p>The Canadian Chamber of Commerce's Resource Champions initiative will partner with Chambers and other network members to advocate for trade infrastructure to increase market access in 2017.</p> <p>Oct 31/16 - CCC President Perrin Beatty met with Minister Carr to discuss Canadian Chamber priorities</p>	
Infrastructure Investment Essential to Mining Sector Growth	Dec.14/16 - Letters to Hon. James Carr, Minister of Natural Resources, and to Hon. Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities		The government of Canada has launched a number of new spending initiatives related to infrastructure, including the possible creation of an infrastructure bank. The potential impact on better aligning planning with communities and the mining sector is currently uncertain.

Integrated Water Management for Canada's Water Resources	Dec.14/16 - Letter to Hon. Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change		
Make the Ring of Fire a Nationally Significant Initiative	Dec.14/16 - Letters to Hon. James Carr, Minister of Natural Resources, and to Hon. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs		
National Marine Conservation Area Reserve - Strait of Georgia	Dec.14/16 - Letters to Hon. Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, and to Hon. Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport		
Support for Enbridge's Line 3 Replacement Program	Dec.14/16 - Letter to Hon. James Carr, Minister of Natural Resources		Nov 29/16 - The federal government announced on Nov. 29, 2016 its approval of the Line 3 Replacement Program. The anticipated in-service date for this project is 2019, pending U.S. regulatory approvals.
Supporting Canada's Responsible Resource Development	Dec.14/16 - Letter to Hon. James Carr, Minister of Natural Resources	<p>The Canadian Chamber has or will participate in expert panel consultations on the <i>National Energy Board Act</i> and the <i>Canadian Environmental Assessment Act</i>. The Canadian Chamber's submission to the NEB Modernization Expert Panel will be compiled in cooperation with five local chambers from across Canada.</p> <p>Oct 31/16 - CCC President Perrin Beatty met with Minister Carr to discuss Canadian Chamber priorities</p>	NRCan and ECCC have launched expert panels to make recommendations on major environmental regulatory processes, including the <i>National Energy Board Modernization Expert Panel</i> (due to report May 2017) and the <i>Canadian Environmental Assessment Act Expert Panel</i> (due to report March 2017).
Supporting Canada's Steelmaking Coal Industry	Dec.14/16 - Letters to Hon. James Carr, Minister of Natural Resources, and to Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Minister of International Trade		

SPECIAL ISSUES

**For more information contact
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Resolution	CCC Actions Taken	Planned CCC Actions	Government Actions to Date
Business Needs More Clarity Regarding Its Role in Reconciliation With Indigenous Peoples	Dec.14/16 - Letter to Hon. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs	Subject of 2016 Top 10 project. Report - with recommendations - to be released in March 2016.	Dec. 15/16 - Prime Minister Trudeau announces Kelowna-like process for engaging bilaterally with national Indigenous organizations annually & quarterly meetings with relevant ministers Feb. 22/17 - Prime Minister Trudeau announced 6-minister (INAC, Health, Natural Resources, Fisheries & Oceans, Families, Justice) working group to review laws & policies affecting Indigenous peoples
Creating and Amending Protocols for Economic Recovery From Disaster for All Businesses	Dec.14/16 - Letter to Hon. Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness		
Deferred Prosecution Agreement	Dec.14/16 - Letters to Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada		
Emergency Slaughter - Update to the Transportation of Animals Program	Dec.14/16 - Letter to Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food		
Incentivizing Integrity: Adoption of a Canadian False Claims Act	Dec.14/16 - Letter to Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada		
Addressing Barriers to Indigenous Participation in Canada's Economy	Dec.14/16 - Letter to Hon. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs		
Maximize the Economic Benefit of Recreational Marijuana	Dec.19/16 - Letter to Hon. Jane Philpott, Minister of Health		

Promotion of Innovation-Friendly Rules and Policies in Healthcare Public Procurement	Dec.19/16 - Letters to Hon. Jane Philpott, Minister of Health, and to Hon. Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development		
Remediation Standard for Legal and Illegal Substance Affected Properties	Dec.14/16 - Letter to Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada		

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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Resolution	CCC Actions Taken	Planned CCC Actions	Government Actions to Date
A Pan-Territorial Transportation Strategy	Dec.14/16 – Letters to Hon. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, and to Hon. Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport March 1/17 – Provided to Senate Banking, Trade & Commerce Committee as a contribution to its study of a national transportation corridor.		
Addressing the Impact of Climate Change on Indigenous Communities’ Transportation and Infrastructure	Dec.14/16 – Letters to Hon. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, and to Hon. Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, and to Hon. Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport		Dec/16 – Pan Canadian Framework for Clean Growth and Climate Change includes commitments to: -Invest in resilient infrastructure to protect vulnerable regions -Build climate resilience in the North -Support community-based monitoring by Indigenous peoples; and, -Supporting adaptation in Indigenous communities
Advancing Canadian Competitiveness Using Shortline Rail	Dec.14/16 – Letter to Hon. Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport Oct / 16 Submission to Transport Canada on the future of Canada’s Transportation System		
Canada’s Small Airports and Access to ACAP Funding	Dec.14/16 – Letter to Hon. Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport Oct / 16 Submission to Transport Canada on the future of Canada’s Transportation System	Mar/17 – CCC Board meeting with Minister Garneau	Feb/17 Minister Garneau’s response letter stated that ACAP funding is unable to assist with funding ineligible airports that the department is, “examining other avenues of assistance”
Enhancing Canada’s Air Travel Competitiveness	Dec.14/16 – Letter to Hon. Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport Oct / 16 Submission to Transport Canada on the future of Canada’s Transportation System	Mar/17 – CCC Board meeting with Minister Garneau	Nov/16 – Minister Garneau announced legislation to change international ownership restrictions from 25 to 49 percent of voting interests for Canadian air carriers

			Feb/17 – Minister Garneau’s response letter noted, “other initiatives to address the competitiveness of the air industry are still under consideration and further announcements will be made later this year.”
Improve the Financial Viability of VIA Rail to Increase Passenger Rail Service in Canada	Dec.14/16 – Letter to Hon. Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport	Mar/17 – CCC Board meeting with Minister Garneau	Feb/17 – Minister Garneau’s response letter noted that he will consider the results of an in-depth assessment of VIA’s proposal later this year
Improving Canada’s Infrastructure Through Public-Private Partnerships (P3s)	Dec.14/16 – Letter to Hon. Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities Oct / 16 Submission to Transport Canada on the future of Canada’s Transportation System Oct/16 Testimony before Senate Committee on National Finance re: federal infrastructure programs		Nov/16 – Government announced intention to create the Canada Infrastructure Bank in the Fall Economic Update
Protecting Our Infrastructure (Asset Management)	Dec.14/16 – Letter to Hon. Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities Oct/16 Submission to Infrastructure Canada on Phase 2 of the Federal Infrastructure Plan Oct/16 Testimony before Senate Committee on National Finance re: federal infrastructure programs		
Supporting Canada’s Air Travel Industry Through Lower Fees	Dec.14/16 – Letter to Hon. Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport Oct / 16 Submission to Transport Canada on the future of Canada’s Transportation System	Mar/17 – CCC Board meeting with Minister Garneau	Nov/16 – Minister Garneau announced legislation to change international ownership restrictions from 25 to 49 percent of voting interests for Canadian air carriers