

Memorandum

To: Local Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade

From: Shirley-Ann George, Senior Vice-President Policy

Date: March 31, 2009

Re: What's New in the Policy Process for 2009?

As you are aware, we have adopted the recommendations from the Resolution Evaluation Task Force which includes a number of changes to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce policy process for 2009. As you will have seen in an earlier email, the major changes this year are:

- **Resolutions must have a sponsor.** To be accepted, resolutions must have a sponsor when they are submitted. .
- **Use the Resolution Template.** We have prepared a Microsoft Word template to be used for resolutions. Please use this template when submitting your resolution.
- **Resolutions in priority issue areas will get preferential treatment.** At the AGM resolutions outside of the priority issue areas will still be accepted but will be debated after discussion of all priority resolutions is complete.

I encourage you to read (or reread) the March 12th email which gives full list of changes including additional information on the treatment of priority and non-priority resolutions.

Priority Issue Areas

The Board of Directors of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce has set the following areas to be the priority issue areas for 2009. Policies outside of these areas will receive less attention.

1. Economic Recovery
 - Pursue a comprehensive strategy to limit the impact of the recession on Canada, and to speed economic recovery
 - Competitive business environment focused on fiscal & tax policy, employer taxes (e.g. EI) and labour law.
2. Energy and Environment
 - Canadian energy strategy
 - Climate change

3. Canada - United States Relations
 - a secure Canada-U.S. border that facilitates the movement of low-risk goods and people
4. Trade and investment access
 - NAFTA, Asia, WTO
 - FTA with Europe
 - Removing interprovincial trade barriers
5. Labour and skills
 - focused on employers' needs for retraining, immigration, mobility and post-secondary education
6. Innovation
 - Promoting e-commerce adoption and innovation
 - Privacy issues
 - Competition policy reform
7. Transportation & infrastructure
 - Upgrading basic infrastructure
 - Establishing a national transportation strategy