



Office of the President and  
Chief Executive Officer

Cabinet du président  
et chef de la direction

July 19, 2013

Dear Premiers:

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce wishes you a productive annual Council of the Federation meeting in Niagara-on-the-Lake from July 24-26 and asks that you include in your deliberations issues our members believe you have the power to significantly influence. These issues are internal trade barriers, investing in infrastructure to keep Canada competitive, and Pooled Registered Pension Plans (PRPPs).

The Canadian Chamber's members include approximately 200,000 businesses of all sizes in every region of Canada represented by our network of more than 450 local chambers of commerce and boards of trade, as well as corporations and industry associations.

#### **Internal Trade Barriers**

While we work to create a strong North American business environment, we must also ensure that Canada is able to compete internationally. The inefficiencies of our diverse system of provincial/territorial regulations hobble Canada's ability to compete. Removing the remaining internal barriers will not only increase economic opportunities amongst the provinces and territories but will place Canada in a better position compared our major international competitors. The Canadian Chamber applauds the ongoing work of the Council of the Federation to remove the remaining barriers to interprovincial/territorial trade. Now that the federal government has opened the opportunity for inter-provincial/territorial trade in wine, we urge all provinces and territories to join British Columbia and Manitoba in amending their legislation to allow consumers to personally transport or have wine shipped across provincial/territories boundaries for personal consumption.

Despite some progress, Canada's internal trade continues to be harmed by many non-tariff barriers. Strong leadership from the Council of the Federation is needed if we wish to create a barrier-free domestic market.

#### **Investing in Infrastructure**

State of the art, effective and reliable infrastructure is a key component of economic competitiveness. Unfortunately, Canadian infrastructure is aging and we have not kept up with the necessary levels of investment.

As infrastructure ages, its efficiency falls and maintenance costs rise. Canadian governments have traditionally adopted an uncoordinated approach to infrastructure investment and maintenance. We need a national infrastructure investment strategy that is developed amongst all levels of government and in full consultation with relevant stakeholders. This strategy must include innovative funding models and increased private sector involvement. It must take into account the wide range of challenges and opportunities in communities across Canada and encourage the use of Public-Private-

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Partnerships. The Canadian Chamber of Commerce urges all members of the Council of the Federation to make long-term infrastructure planning and investment a priority issue.

**Pooled Registered Pension Plans (PRPPs)**

The Canadian Chamber urges those provinces that have yet to follow the federal, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Quebec governments in introducing and/or passing the legislation necessary to make PRPPs available in their jurisdictions to do so. PRPPs offer small and medium-sized businesses - of which many have limited, or no, resources to provide retirement savings plans - an opportunity to help their employees save for retirement. PRPPs will also provide individuals and the self-employed with additional retirement savings options.

Please accept my best wishes for your meeting. I look forward to learning of its outcomes and would be pleased to discuss any or all of these issues with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Perrin Beatty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

Perrin Beatty  
President and Chief Executive Officer

c.c.: Hon. James Moore, Minister of Industry and Chair of the Agreement on Internal Trade  
Hon. Denis Lebel, Minister of Infrastructure, Communities and Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec