



**NEWS RELEASE
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Commitment to recapture competitiveness in provincial Throne Speech gets Chamber's endorsement

(Calgary, AB) – The Calgary Chamber of Commerce was very encouraged by the focus on competitiveness in the Provincial Speech from the Throne released today, including government commitments to improve the fiscal and regulatory environment for the energy industry, reduce interprovincial trade barriers, and exercise greater fiscal restraint.

“Starting the legislative session with the *Alberta Competitiveness Act* is a strong signal that Alberta wants to regain its competitive advantage,” said Heather Douglas, President & CEO of the Calgary Chamber of Commerce. “It is a smart and timely move to rebuild the province’s economic foundations through a responsive, supportive fiscal and regulatory framework, and ensure we are in the best position to compete globally.”

The Throne Speech’s additional emphasis on competitive public infrastructure investment, educational excellence and research and innovation are supported by Chamber members as the key drivers that improve Alberta’s productivity, and ensure future prosperity, stated Douglas.

While the Chamber views a world-class health care system as fundamental to the attraction and retention of a skilled workforce, and a key support to productivity, it is concerned with a possible signal of ramped up funding over the next five years.

“A rejuvenated health care system needs to encourage and foster innovation to achieve Albertans’ expectations of access, quality and sustainability,” stated Douglas. “More money is not necessarily the answer.”

The Chamber has recommended a more active role for independent goods and services providers within a publicly funded system, promoting competition for delivery and greater efficiency.

“In general, the directions outlined in today’s Throne Speech provide a framework for optimism,” said Douglas. “We now look forward to the first significant details in next week’s provincial budget.”

The Chamber’s provincial pre-budget recommendations are available at: www.calgarychamber.com

About the Chamber

The Calgary Chamber of Commerce is a member-driven, sustainable organization whose mission is to connect, serve and champion the Calgary business community in its quest to excel.



The Public & Government Affairs Department measurably contributes to the Chamber's profile and effectiveness. We are the leading edge business advocate and forum for debate, and a credible source for policy analysis and issue commentary. We advocate new and innovative solutions to improve the business climate on behalf of our members.

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