



**NEWS RELEASE  
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**Chamber applauds focus on jobs in federal Throne Speech**

(Calgary, AB) – The Calgary Chamber of Commerce supported the federal Speech from the Throne's priority of jobs and economic growth. Disciplined fiscal management, investment in strategic productivity-enhancing infrastructure, and improved regulatory processes, were elements of the Chamber's 'economic competitiveness agenda' that were featured in the Throne Speech today.

"Improving the regulatory process, both for the energy industry and small and medium-sized businesses, will spur economic growth leading to new jobs," said Heather Douglas, President & CEO with the Calgary Chamber of Commerce. "It is an important part of Canada's competitiveness, costing little and having an enormous impact."

The government's commitment to return to fiscal balance through spending restraint, value for money reviews and administrative efficiencies is duly noted.

"Canada was on an enviable track of debt reduction in the G7. While the recent economic hardships have caused a set back, we need to remain focused on balancing our budgets and debt reduction," stated Douglas. "This enables us to keep tax rates competitive and spend in priority areas such as education."

Additional Throne Speech highlights that are supported by the Chamber include increased support for skills training, a new digital economy strategy to capitalize on new technology and the intent to allow greater foreign investment in key sectors. The plan to sign more bilateral free trade agreements was also welcomed.

"As a small, export-based economy, Canada's future prosperity will be built on international trade," remarked Douglas. "Trade barriers are an impediment. While we work to reduce international trade barriers, we must also concurrently reduce internal barriers between provinces and territories."

The Chamber will review the federal budget on Thursday for greater detail on these initiatives and monitor Canada's overall fiscal situation and competitiveness.

The Chamber's federal pre-budget submission is available at the Chamber's website: [www.calgarychamber.com](http://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.

– 30 –

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