

2010 Policy Priorities

Fiscal Policy

- Press the government to present a realistic plan to balance the books and avoid long-term structural deficits. Ensure the government dedicates any future surpluses to paying down the debt.
- Monitor the effectiveness of Budget 2010 to stimulate the economy, and restore consumer and business confidence.
- Encourage provinces and territories that levy retail sales taxes to harmonize with the GST to reduce the cost of capital, promote investment and improve productivity.
- Press the provinces to eliminate the remaining provincial capital taxes
- Restructure Canada's EI system to improve equity, provide an incentive for firms to reduce layoffs, encourage hiring, promote labour mobility and ensure program costs do not constrain economic activity.
- Ensure Canada's personal tax system is conducive to attracting and retaining skilled workers



Domestic issues

- Promote the need for a Canadian Sustainable Energy Strategy that comprehensively addresses the many policy issues, challenges and opportunities for energy producers and users.
- Encourage the development of a new greenhouse gas (GHG) regulatory framework with achievable objectives
- Work with the U.S. to ensure a secure border while at the same time effectively allocating border resources and reducing border delays
- Promote the need for a transportation strategy based upon a multimodal, North American vision which is both cost-effective and sustainable.

- Promote e-business solutions for SMEs and develop an e-commerce strategy.
- Remove barriers to internal trade and labour mobility
- Ensure competition law amendments meet the needs of Canadian business and key recommendations from the Competition Policy Review Panel are implemented.
- Advocate for a services innovation strategy which will promote competition in the services sector and growth into new markets
- Ensure the immigration system and leveraging domestic labour pools effectively help Canada meet its requirements for skilled workers
- Bolster the intellectual property rights environment in Canada by enacting effective anti-counterfeit legislation with proper enforcement measures. Update current copyright legislation.

International Policy

- Progress on the Canadian Chamber's U.S. border, energy, regulation and IP agenda.
- Work with the U.S. to develop a continental energy strategy that provides for energy security
- Develop an international agreement to mitigate and adapt to climate change that includes all major GHG-emitting countries with realistic and achievable commitments
- Push for a successful conclusion to an ambitious Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, and for the conclusion to the WTO Doha Round negotiations.
- Promote the broadening of trade and investment relations with China, India and other key markets.
- Vigorously defend against protectionism
- Ensure that trade rules are adhered to and that unfair trade practices are quickly addressed
- Ensure that Canada provides a predictable investment climate for its companies investing abroad through the negotiation of Foreign Investment Protection and Promotion Agreements (FIPAs)
- Ensure continuation of voluntary approaches to corporate responsibility initiatives

For specifics on these and other policy directions of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, please do not hesitate to contact us directly by visiting www.chamber.ca for our contact information.

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