



**CANADIAN FEDERATION
OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS.**

2400 College Avenue, Suite 101
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 1C8

April 7, 2008

The Honourable Brad Wall
Premier of Saskatchewan
Room 226, Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 0B3

Dear Premier:

On behalf of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) and its 5,250 members in Saskatchewan, I would like to provide you with a copy of our recent research report - *A Foundation for Unleashing Entrepreneurship - The case for regulatory transparency and accountability in Saskatchewan*, which we presented to the Honourable Lyle Stewart, Minister of Enterprise and Innovation in February.

During our meeting with you and your staff, we discussed our members' small business development priorities for the Saskatchewan government in the next five years. One of CFIB's top recommendations for your government was to acknowledge the important role the small business community plays in Saskatchewan by making a commitment to reduce government regulatory burden on business.

CFIB was pleased to learn of a recent Ministerial Statement delivered by Minister Stewart where your government stated that the Enterprise Saskatchewan Interim Advisory Board agreed to oversee and monitor a major new initiative soon to be launched: "The Business Enabling Initiative." It is our understanding this new initiative will "focus on ways to enhance the quality and ease of customer service to business, especially for smaller sized enterprises." CFIB is pleased your government is taking a serious look at the regulatory environment in Saskatchewan and has committed to "minimizing excessive red tape and modernizing and streamlining our regulatory systems." CFIB is most interested in key areas such as measures and targets for reducing regulatory burden on business, as well as reducing unnecessary red tape and paperwork.

While some regulations are necessary, many simply create an additional administrative headache for business owners. Regulation affects all of us but is most in the face of small business owners who are on the front lines of compliance. Managing regulation effectively, including ensuring the burden remains reasonable, is as much a foundation of economic strength as competitive taxes and balanced labour laws.

Incredibly, unlike taxes and spending, there is no institutionalized regulatory transparency and accountability. Several governments across Canada have followed British Columbia's lead and taken some promising steps in this direction by finding ways to measure and report the regulatory burden. But none has committed to *continue* measuring and reporting by making it a legislated requirement. In each case the measures were created to quantify whether a *short-term* red tape reduction commitment had been met.

CFIB believes **the government of Saskatchewan has a huge opportunity to do what no other government has done: address the regulatory accountability deficit.** Once it has committed to this bedrock, it can build on lessons learned in jurisdictions like British Columbia and Nova Scotia and create successful policies to reduce red tape while being secure in the knowledge that the benefits flowing from the reductions will be long lived. Saskatchewan could be the first province to pass legislation that would make it a world leader in regulatory accountability and ensure the initiatives by Enterprise Saskatchewan last well into the future.

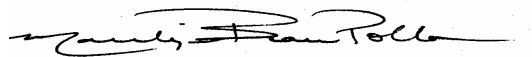
What benefits does this approach promise? The biggest benefit is the potential to unleash entrepreneurship within both the private and public sectors by reducing the time, money, and frustration both sides incur when coping with unnecessary red tape. This leads to many other positive outcomes: a more constructive relationship between government and the private sector, a more productive and resilient economy and a more attractive investment climate.

While reducing red tape has always been important for small business, existing and looming labour shortages guarantee the ongoing importance of saving time for both those in the public and private sectors. Passing a *Regulatory Transparency and Accountability Act* along the lines we are suggesting would prove to be a very effective tool to help address this challenge.

We hope Saskatchewan will adopt CFIB's plan to institute regulatory transparency and accountability and make some much needed reductions in red tape in order for its citizens to unleash their entrepreneurship and look forward to limitless opportunities for years to come.

CFIB looks forward to working closely with your government to address the regulatory accountability deficit in the months ahead. If you or your staff have any questions on this important issue, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (306) 757-0000.

Sincerely,



Marilyn Braun-Pollon
Vice President, Saskatchewan and Agri-Business

Enclosure

cc. Hon. Ken Krawetz, Deputy Premier and Minister of Education
Hon. Bill Boyd, Minister of Energy and Resources
Hon. Rod Gantfoer, Minister of Finance
Hon. June Draude, Minister of First Nations and Metis Relations

Hon. Don McMorris, Minister of Health
Hon. Wayne Elhard, Minister of Highways and Infrastructure
Hon. Don Morgan, Minister of Justice
Hon. Dan D'Autremont, Minister of Government Services
Hon. Bob Bjornerud, Minister of Agriculture
Hon. Lyle Stewart, Minister of Enterprise and Innovation
Hon. Donna Harpauer, Minister of Social Services
Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff, Minister of Crown Corporations
Hon. Nancy Heppner, Minister of Environment
Hon. Christine Tell, Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport
Hon. Rob Norris, Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour
Hon. Bill Hutchinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Hon. Darryl Hickie, Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing