

NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday, October 22, 2008

10:00 A.M.

**For Immediate Release*

Lethbridge, AB. . . . “Prosperity without Borders” was the theme for the Canadian Chamber of Commerce Annual Conference held in Quebec City this month. Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce representatives – Dennis Hatt (President), Paul Pharo (President Elect) and Jody Nilsson (General Manager) attended the conference.

Delegates representing Chambers from across the country, participated in the conference and policy session. **The voting delegation representing Alberta Chambers was the third highest** (34) at the conference, after Ontario (37) and British Columbia (50). There were 233 voting delegates at the policy session.

The two resolutions submitted by the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce were approved:

- **Grown in Canada Label – Marketing the Nation’s Agriculture & Agri-Food Products**
- **Definition of the Precautionary Principle**

All 11 Alberta Chambers’ resolutions were approved by the voting delegates. A total of 56 resolutions were approved by the national delegates, in the areas of: **Finance and Taxation, Environment and National Resources, Government, Industry, International Affairs, Justice, Social Policy and Transport and Infrastructure.**

The policy session provided delegates an opportunity to debate and vote on policy issues that will form the basis for the Canadian Chamber’s mandate for the year. ***The approved resolutions captured the priorities that the business community considers critical and will be presented to the federal government for action.***

“Prosperity without Borders” – a statement on Canadian Competition – was endorsed in Quebec City by the Canadian Chamber Network, represented by leaders of the national, provincial, territorial, regional and local Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade from across Canada. A country’s level of productivity relative to other countries is essential to its standard of living, prosperity and quality of life of its citizens. Canada can be a leader in the global economy, but to do so, we need to act now to improve Canada’s competitiveness, and assure a strong and profitable economic environment that will benefit all Canadians. The Canadian Chamber’s Annual General Meeting provided the opportunity for all Chambers and Boards of Trade to discuss important economic issues vital to business.

For Canada to remain competitive, our policies must be continually reviewed and refined to ensure they are appropriate for the fast-changing global environment. Key building blocks for a globally competitive framework include:

- **An open and efficient Canadian market place**
- **A competitive tax system**
- **A secure and competitive Canadian-U.S. border**
- **A market-based approach to energy strategy**
- **A climate change action plan**
- **People and their skills; immigration policies**
- **Developing talent and supporting innovation**
- **Increased liberalization of trade and investment**
- **Embracing the world's emerging and existing powerhouse economies**
- **Quality infrastructure**
- **Intellectual property protection rules**
- **Small and medium-sized enterprises – the backbone of the Canadian economy**
- **A competitive and efficient regulatory environment for business**
- **The importance of sustainable economic development**

“Economies that enjoy strong competition between firms are healthy and dynamic”, states Chamber President. “Ultimately embracing competition will allow Canadian companies to continually adopt to the changing global marketplace and continue to be international leaders, thereby securing Canada’s future.”

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