

January 23, 2009

Hon. Rona Ambrose, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Labour  
165 Hôtel-de-Ville  
Gatineau, QC K1A 0J2

Dear Minister:

In October, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce concluded its 79<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Quebec City. One of the highlights of Chamber's AGM is the Policy Session. It is during the Policy Session that resolutions submitted by local chambers of commerce and boards of trade from across the country are debated and voted on by accredited delegates. Once approved, these resolutions become the policy position of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce for three years. This year our delegates issued a clear and decisive national policy mandate that we intend to pursue vigorously with the federal government over the coming months.

Our renewed national policy mandate includes an issue that falls within your portfolio.

**Aboriginal Labour Force Strategy - Tapping into an Underutilized Pool Of Labour Supply:** The Canadian Chamber of Commerce calls upon the federal government to work with provincial and territorial governments, as well as with the Aboriginal and broader business communities, to ensure holistic and integrated assessment, support, treatment, training and employment referral services are provided to businesses of all sizes; improve the collection and monitoring of Aboriginal employment outcomes by expanding the *Aboriginal Labour Force Survey* to all provinces, territories and on-reserve communities; and ensure that any new programs and funding be provided only where there is a demonstrated demand and partnership with employers and/or businesses.

The full text of this resolution is attached and I hope that we will have an opportunity to discuss it with you in the near future. We will contact your office shortly to set up a meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Perrin Beatty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Perrin Beatty

cc: Ed Kormarnicki, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development and the Minister of Labour  
Hélène Gosselin, Deputy Minister of Labour

Attachment