

January 23, 2009

The Honourable Robert Nicholson, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
284 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON
Canada K1A 0H8

Dear Minister:

In October 2008, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce held its 79th Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Québec City. One of the highlights of Canadian 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 policy of the Canadian Chamber for three years. This year, delegates issued a clear national policy mandate that we will pursue vigorously with the federal government over the coming months.

Our renewed national policy mandate includes a number of new issues that fall within your portfolio. Accordingly, we would like to discuss these issues with you directly in the near future. I have outlined these policy positions below.

Preventing Identity Theft: The use of someone else's personal information to commit fraud - identity theft - has emerged as a very serious problem for consumers, law enforcement agencies and the business community. The Canadian Chamber is encouraged that the government had introduced Bill C-27 dealing with identity theft and we are asking that this legislation be tabled and passed swiftly.

Organized Crime Task Force: With the exponential growth of organized crime across Canada, the RCMP and local law enforcement agencies have an increasingly difficult task. In order to properly address this growing problem, the Canadian Chamber recommends that the federal government establish organized crime forces in high-risk regions in Canada, work with the provinces and territories to ensure proper funding and act as the coordinating body between all agencies.

Correctional Services Canada Revitalization: A meaningful reformation of Corrections Services can have a positive effect on Canada's economy. The Canadian Chamber recommends that the federal government implement the *Roadmap to Strengthening Public Safety* report in its entirety.

Illegal Cigarette Trade in Canada: The trade in illegal cigarettes in Canada is booming, resulting in losses for the Canadian economy, not only for retailers, but also because unpaid taxes on the sale of illegal tobacco diminishes federal and provincial

government revenues and is estimated at upwards of \$2 billion in 2006. Given the substantial increase in this criminal activity and the involvement of organized crime, the Canadian Chamber recommends that the federal government implement adequate enforcement measures and collaborate with the provinces to ensure compliance with legislation. In addition, the federal government should establish a closer link with the Aboriginal communities in border areas to work together in halting this illegal and dangerous activity.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Perrin Beatty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Perrin Beatty
President and CEO

Attachments

CC: John Sims, Deputy Minister, Department of Justice
Rob Moore, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice