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Minister of Industry
and Minister of State (Agriculture)



Ministre de l'Industrie
et ministre d'État (Agriculture)

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H5

01 Nov. 2011

The Honourable Perrin Beatty, P.C.
President and Chief Executive Officer
The Canadian Chamber of Commerce
420-360 Albert Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 7X7

Dear Mr. Beatty:

Thank you for your letter of September 6, 2011, regarding the new *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act* and its application to the *Boards of Trade Act*.

To address your concerns, chambers of commerce governed by the *Boards of Trade Act* will continue to benefit from the status and privileges accorded to them. The *Boards of Trade Act* and the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act* are both corporate statutes, and an organization can only be incorporated under, and be governed by the provisions of, one corporate statute. Consequently, a chamber of commerce incorporated under the *Boards of Trade Act* will not be governed by the provisions of the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act*.

As you may be aware, there are other types of federal chambers of commerce that are not created under the *Boards of Trade Act*. These are created by a statute that has the objective to create a specific chamber of commerce. These kinds of statutes are often referred to as special Acts of Parliament, many of which are private acts. An example of this type of chamber of commerce is the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal, which was created by the *Montreal Board of Trade Act*.

These special Acts of Parliament will continue to be in effect and will not be replaced by the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act*. Governance provisions found in Part 19 of this Act may apply to these organizations, depending on the wording of the special Act in question. However, these provisions are similar to the provisions in the old not-for-profit legislation that currently apply to special Act organizations. As a result, this change is expected to have a minor impact.

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Corporations Canada will be communicating individually with special Act organizations once the new Act is proclaimed in force. In the interim, if you would like further information, I invite you to contact Ms. Marcie Girouard, Director General, Corporations Canada, by telephone at 613-954-3576.

I trust that this information is helpful. Once again, thank you for writing and please accept my best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Paradis', written in a cursive style.

The Honourable Christian Paradis, P.C., M.P.