

**Response – Canadian Chamber of Commerce**

***How will your party support businesses as the engine for growth to move our country from the recovery into strong and sustained economic growth?***

Small businesses are one of the engines of job creation in Canada and an important part of every community across the country. Too many mainstreet, small and medium-sized businesses have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic and need a government that will help them access the services and infrastructure they need to recover, thrive and expand while investing in a health and talented workforce.

New Democrats believe that small businesses should have access to all the support they need to get through this crisis, grow, innovate and stay competitive in Canada and around the world. That's why we have stood up for emergency small business aid during COVID-19, lower small business taxes, opposed unfair merchant fees, and fought to make it easier to pass on small businesses to the next generation.

The pandemic hasn't ended and businesses need our support. New Democrats will extend emergency rent supports and the wage subsidy because cutting them off would be irresponsible. We recognize that there is a shortage of workers that is a major barrier for businesses, especially those in rural areas. To help get people back to work, we will put in place a hiring bonus to pay the employer portion of EI and CPP for new or rehired staff. We'll make important new investments in training Canadians and boost support for traditionally underemployed groups. And we'll continue investing in PPE and workplace modifications to help staff and clients know they are safe when in a place of business.

We'll also do more to tackle issues that affect small business' bottom line. Recognizing that more businesses rely on credit card and virtual transactions, we'll put an end to gouging by capping high credit card merchant fees at a maximum of 1%.

Our plan for public universal pharmacare will save businesses approximately \$600 per employee with extended benefits every year. This will help business owners feel more confident that their employees are able to access the prescription drugs they need.

A New Democrat government will streamline access to government export services and make it simpler to break into foreign markets. We'll provide small and medium-sized businesses with a single point of contact to help ease regulatory processes and support compliance, freeing up time for entrepreneurs to invest in growing their business.

New Democrats are on the side of small businesses, and we'll continue this important work in the 44<sup>th</sup> Parliament and beyond.

Sincerely,

The NDP Team