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## CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MANDATE LETTER

May 13, 2025

The Honourable Gregor Robertson, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Housing and Infrastructure and  
Minister responsible for Pacific Economic Development Canada  
Member of Parliament for Vancouver Fraserview–South Burnaby, British Columbia  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

*Via electronic mail:* [gregor.robertson@parl.gc.ca](mailto:gregor.robertson@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Minister:

On behalf of over 200,000 businesses and 400 network Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade across Canada, congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Housing and Infrastructure and Minister responsible for Pacific Economic Development Canada, and for championing Canadian business during the election. I am writing to seek your continued support as Parliament resumes, to help build a competitive business environment that creates the goods, materials, services, transportation, and infrastructure that we need here at home.

Your appointment comes at a critical time for Canada. An ongoing trade and tariff war with the United States, along with deliberate reforms to the U.S. tax and regulatory systems, has created the conditions for a once-in-a-generation risk of jobs and investment fleeing to the United States.

During the campaign we heard Prime Minister Carney clearly indicate his support for helping Canadian business during this critical time. We firmly believe government must partner with industry on an effective strategy that focuses on eliminating internal trade barriers, lowering costs and taxes for business, reducing red tape, and building trade-enabling infrastructure.



In addition to these four core priorities, we have identified several critical issues specific to your portfolio that we believe also warrant your urgent attention. We submit these issues to you after thoroughly consulting our network of Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade across Canada. We believe each of the following issues could be initiated or achieved outright within your first 100 days as Minister:

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| 1. Expand the GST rebate to reduce the tax burden on builders. It will not only boost supply by enabling them to invest in more homes but also provide relief down the line to renters and buyers.     |
| 2. Allow the reinvestment of capital gains for the creation of new housing. This will put Canadian builders on equal footing to those in the U.S., making domestic investment more attractive.         |
| 3. Freeze on changes to the National Building Code of Canada. Establish a regular cadence for changes to allow builders to plan more predictably.  |
| 4. Leverage federal funding to decrease development charges and speed up permitting. Reducing the burden on builders will allow them to build more homes, faster.                                      |
| 5. Ensure that the residential construction sector can build a workforce. A projected skilled labour shortage means we need more qualified workers to build homes.                                     |
| 6. Commit to long-term investment through a Canada Trade Infrastructure Plan. Canada must build and maintain trade infrastructure that dependably and efficiently transports goods to and from market. |

Combined with the risk to Canadian businesses, we face a growing unity crisis across Western Canada, the likes of which we have not seen in a generation. Our members are clear that the federal government needs to build on the positive messaging communicated during the campaign, with key actions to signal a new approach to Western Canada prosperity and economic development, which recognizes the benefit of our shared prosperity. One opportunity to do that is to attend the Calgary Stampede this year. We would be honoured to host you at our Stampede reception, where you will be able to meet hundreds of leading business and political leaders from across Canada. If you are interested in attending, please have your staff contact David Pierce, Vice-President, Government Relations at [dpierce@chamber.ca](mailto:dpierce@chamber.ca).



We would be pleased to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss the role businesses play in securing Canada's economic future. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me or my staff directly if we can be of assistance at any time.

Sincerely,

***Original Signed***

Matthew Holmes  
Executive Vice President, International & Chief of Public Policy