CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MANDATE LETTER

May 14, 2025

The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., M.P.
President off the King's Privy Council for Canada and
Minister responsible for the Canada-US Trade, Intergovernmental Affairs and One Canadian Economy
Member of Parliament for Beauséjour
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Via electronic mail: dominic.leblanc@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 President of the Kings Privy Council, 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:

1.	Ensure a resilient and stable Canada-U.S. trading relationship within North America to support Canada's prosperity and collaborate with industry to prepare for the CUSMA review, which could dramatically reshape trade within North America.
2.	Introduce legislation that removes the requirement for provinces to create unique and competing regulations.
3.	Support the elimination of the Digital Services Tax as it negatively impacts Canada's trade relationship with the U.S., with its payment deadline posing economic risks.
4.	Advocate for the elimination of the GMT, as major trading partners either do not support it or have paused its implementation.
5.	Collaborate with the Ontario Government to advance the Ring of Fire project and work with Alberta and other provinces on resource harvesting to ensure shared prosperity.
6.	Take a leadership role in addressing concerns of Western Canada in collaboration with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce's Western Executive Council.

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.

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