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The Future of Business Success
L'avenir de la réussite en affaires

CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MANDATE LETTER

May 22, 2025

The Honourable Marjorie Michel, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Health
Member of Parliament for Papineau, Quebec
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Via electronic mail: marjorie.michel@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 Health, 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. Ensure appropriate scope for National Pharmacare. Build on, rather than displace, the important role played by private players and employers, while respecting the jurisdiction of provinces and territories. We must follow the path of fiscal prudence. |
| 2. Reduce wait-times for life-saving medications. Canada must reduce the average time it takes for new medications to become available on public drug plans, which is currently the longest in the G7. |
| 3. Implement a pan-Canadian health data ecosystem. Making electronic health information securely available to patients and researchers will improve the delivery of care and facilitate the development of the next generation of life-saving treatments. |
| 4. Preserve access to employer-paid virtual care. Employer-paid virtual care provides approximately 10 million Canadians with convenient access to primary care at no out-of-pocket cost while reducing pressure on public health systems. |
| 5. Integrate the life sciences sector into global supply chains. COVID-19 made the value of the life sciences sector clear, highlighting Canada's shortcomings in domestic manufacturing and exposing a vital requirement to get Canadians the medicines they need, when they need them. The Government needs to identify and pursue opportunities to integrate Canadian companies into global supply chains, targeting areas most relevant to national health security. |

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