Building on Progress: Priorities for Economic Growth from the Western Business Coalition

September 1, 2026

Dear Members of Parliament,

In May 2025, the Western Business Coalition (WBC), comprised of the Business Councils of British Columbia, Alberta, and Manitoba, and the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, issued a joint letter to all Members of Parliament, urging them to restore Canada as an attractive place to base, build, and grow businesses.

We are encouraged by the progress made since then. Measures such as the Productivity Super-Deduction, Bill C-5, Major Projects Office, and the ongoing Red Tape Review, demonstrate a renewed focus on improving Canada's investment climate, advancing major projects, and strengthening Canada's economic competitiveness. We support these steps and thank you for delivering these results. The WBC is working hard to enable each province to realize its potential and contribute to a strong and united Canada.

We believe these moves are just the beginning of what Canada needs. More work must be done to strengthen the Canadian economy and address the challenges we face. We believe the following four priorities represent the next step in that process:

1: Advancing Major Projects

The federal government has made important progress in improving Canada's system of reviewing and permitting major projects. We encourage you to build on this momentum and avoid backtracking or diluting the proposals currently under consideration.

In particular, the federal government is proposing one-year review timelines beginning once proponents submit required impact assessment studies and other documentation. The WBC supports that shorter review timeline but would also like to see binding legal mechanisms under the Impact Assessment Act (IAA) that limit the entire review process to a maximum of two years. Doing so would improve accountability, reduce investment risk, and position Canada to compete for global capital while maintaining a strong review process.

Our objective is to make Canada one of the world's most attractive destinations for business investment. But when jurisdictions around the world are actively competing for those dollars, an expedited review process will not be enough. Canada needs its tax system to also support new project development and capital investment. With the United States offering 100% first-year expensing for qualifying capital investment, Canada should match this baseline to remain competitive for global investment.

Recommendation:

- Build on the Productivity Super-Deduction introduced in Budget 2025 by expanding it into broad, permanent accelerated depreciation, featuring 100% first-year write-offs for qualifying capital expenditures.

2: Improving Regulatory Competitiveness

Canada's regulatory burden has grown significantly in recent years and is a major obstacle to business investment. While sensible regulations play an important role in protecting the public, the cumulative impact of overlapping and unnecessarily burdensome requirements make it more difficult for businesses to innovate and grow.

The ongoing Red Tape Review exercise is a step in the right direction. However, absent clear goals, reporting requirements, and public sector accountability, its impact is likely to be minimal.

The WBC calls for a regulatory environment that allows businesses of all sizes to thrive. Greater efficiency, predictability, and accountability in Canada's regulatory system will improve productivity and position the country as a more competitive place for business investment.

Recommendation:

- Set a three-year target to reduce regulatory requirements by 25% in legislation, regulation, and policy across government. Establish clear, outcome-focused accountability for regulatory reform by reporting standardized metrics on regulatory volume, complexity, and impacts on business costs, investment, and productivity.

3: Supporting Trade Resilience

Trade and market access are foundational to Canada's economic success. A dependable transportation network is critical for existing businesses and for attracting new investment. It also supports the federal government's objective of diversifying and increasing Canada's exports.

However, increasing labour disruptions in federally regulated transportation industries are having a significant negative impact on the country's economy through supply chain disruptions while damaging Canada's reputation as a reliable trading partner.

The federal government needs to take steps to address this issue and ensure Canada has a dependable transportation system that supports long-term economic growth.

Recommendation:

- Protect Canada's trade infrastructure by establishing a Special Mediator for early intervention in federally regulated labour disputes (rail, aviation, and ports), alongside implementing the Industrial Inquiry Commission's recommended geographic certification and unified collective bargaining framework for West Coast longshore workers.

4: Focusing on Sustainable Economic Immigration

Immigration has historically supported economic growth and addressed labour shortages in Canada. However, the recent surge in immigration went well beyond historic norms, and we support efforts to reduce non-permanent resident volumes and return annual permanent resident targets to historic, sustainable levels.

The WBC also believes Canada should focus more heavily on economic migrants and supports proposed changes to Express Entry and the Comprehensive Ranking System that would better select high-quality economic immigrants.

That said, recent cuts to immigration levels largely came at the expense of the Provincial Nominee Program (PNP). The PNP is an invaluable tool to help provinces attract newcomers with the specific skills needed to meet local labour market needs. PNP allocations should be increased within the existing immigration target levels.

Recommendation:

- Increase PNP allocations within the current Levels Plan by streamlining federal categories and reallocating nominations to provinces and territories with clear, targeted outcomes. This should include a three-year special allocation with a mandate to transition qualified temporary workers to permanent status through the PNP.

Canada has no shortage of potential in its resources or its people. The progress made by the federal government in the past year is encouraging, and we urge all Members of Parliament to remain focused on building a stronger, more economically dynamic and prosperous Canada. The WBC welcomes the opportunity to assist in achieving those goals.

Sincerely,

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