

Support for Alberta's Recovery Plan

June 29, 2020

"The innovative and entrepreneurial spirit of Albertans is how we're going to build our way out of this crisis. We're pleased to see good policy ideas in this plan that take Alberta forward – growing on Alberta's natural strengths and leaning into new economic sectors for diversification and job creation. This is more than a recovery. This is another chance to show the world that Alberta is just getting started."

Adam Legge, President, Business Council of Alberta

"The Grande Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce appreciates the province's support for our residents and businesses during this pandemic. The Peace Region prides itself on being an economic driver for Alberta because of the diversity of our resources including oil and gas, forestry, agriculture, tourism, retail, innovation and more. These sectors will all benefit from a strong recovery plan that will attract investment and build confidence in our economy. As one of the youngest and fastest-growing communities, we also look forward to continued additions and improvements to our infrastructure which is critical to the safety, well-being and prosperity of those who call this home."

Larry Gibson, Chair of the Board, Grande Prairie Chamber of Commerce

Job Creation Tax Cut Acceleration

"At this time, the Job Creation Tax Cut is a critical part of the economic recovery plan to grow Alberta's business sectors. By accelerating the Tax Cut to July 1, 2020 it reassures businesses looking to invest in North America that Alberta is open for business."

Dr. Jack Mintz

"Bringing forward the corporate income tax rate reduction to 8 percent will reduce the uncertainty that firms face in making the investment decisions and support the recovery of the Alberta economy. The Innovation Employment Grant will help smaller innovative companies when they need it most—when they are expanding their R&D investments."

Dr. Bev Dahlby

"The Government of Alberta's plan to open our province is a breath of fresh air for businesses. We believe that this can be done safely as outlined, and that businesses have an ally in government in getting things going again. In addition to that the corporate tax decrease is a signal to the world that Alberta is competitive and we are committed to building our economy back up."

John Liston, President, Alberta Enterprise Group

“Accelerating the Job Creation Tax Cut will help job creators focus on what’s most important for our economy right now – rebuilding their struggling businesses and bringing more people back to work. This will help boost the growth of businesses large and small, moving us one step closer on the long road ahead to economic recovery.”

Janet M. Riopel, President & CEO, Edmonton Chamber of Commerce

Innovation Employment Grant

Our province needs to attract, and retain, forward thinking organizations that invest in the intangibles economy. This grant incentivizes scale-up businesses when they continue to increase R&D, a feature that gives Alberta a competitive edge, but also ensures that the investment is made in a fiscally prudent manner. We applaud this new incentive for its design, but also for the willingness of the Government of Alberta to work collaboratively with the innovation ecosystem.

Cory Janssen, Co-founder and CEO, AltaML Inc.

“Supporting the development and growth of the technology sector is a key component of ensuring Alberta’s future economic success. Alberta must compete and attract capital and talent in order to flourish as a hub of innovative activity. The Government of Alberta’s dynamic plan for Alberta’s recovery and its commitment to the competitiveness of the technology sector put us on that path. I applaud the creation of the Innovation Employment Grant and the investment in the Alberta Enterprise Corporation, two of the key recommendations made by the Innovation Capital Working Group that will signal a real interest in growing a dynamic, innovative and robust technology sector in Alberta.”

Joseph Doucet, Dean, University of Alberta School of Business

“I am delighted to see this dynamic plan for Alberta’s recovery. In particular I applaud the Government of Alberta on its technology and innovation focus which will help to position Alberta not only for recovery, but increased competitiveness as a location for innovative companies and entrepreneurs. The creation of the Innovation Employment Grant and the re-capitalization of Alberta Enterprise Corporation were two key recommendations we made in the Innovation Capital Working Group report. I want to thank the Premier and Cabinet for accepting these recommendations from the report which were rooted in the engagement we had with Alberta’s venture capital and tech community. I look forward to the forthcoming Tech and Innovation Strategy in the fall as I am confident it will continue to build on the announcements today and ensure Alberta grows as a place of innovation and diverse economic activity.”

Adam Legge, President, Business Council of Alberta

Infrastructure Investments

“Concrete Alberta commends the Government of Alberta’s leadership during this health and economic crisis. The concrete industry in Alberta is founded on local jobs, using local sand, gravel and water in addition to locally produced cement, to create sustainable, resilient concrete building materials. This significant investment in infrastructure will ensure that the construction sector drives the province’s economic recovery, by creating thousands of jobs in communities across the province and countless long-lasting benefits to all Albertans.”

Sean Tymkow, President, Concrete Alberta

"The Alberta Construction Association applauds the Government of Alberta for this major investment in Alberta communities and economic recovery. Alberta's construction industry proved to be leaders across Alberta and Canada at safely operating our jobsites through the pandemic and is excited that this new investment will keep many Albertans working and providing for their families."

Frederick Vine, Chair, Alberta Construction Association

Sector strategies

“We believe the support programs put forward by the Government today are an invaluable step in helping underpin and move forward our vision of Calgary being the destination for people who want the help solve some of the world’s greatest challenges through advanced technology. Technology transcends all industries and the ability to attract and retain companies and talent to our market is vital to our ability to compete on a global stage and we believe these measures will enable us to do that more effectively.”

Mary Moran, President & CEO, Calgary Economic Development

“Alberta is well positioned to be a global force in a number of key sectors including food and agriculture, manufacturing, energy and clean tech, and life sciences – all of which are being accelerated by our burgeoning AI and tech sectors. Today’s announcement will benefit every Albertan and every Alberta community by helping businesses put people back to work and attracting more investment from around the world. We have the ability to come out of this crisis as one of the most attractive jurisdictions anywhere and today’s announcements mark an incredibly important step forward.”

Malcolm Bruce, CEO, Edmonton Global

“The Government of Alberta’s measures to support the natural gas and oil sector through this health crisis are saving jobs and building the foundation for recovery of our industry. A strong recovery plan is essential to ensure Alberta’s industries can attract investment moving forward to create job growth and benefits right across the country. Investment in the natural gas and oil industry also means important innovation continues which is part of our commitment to continued progress in

environmental performance. A strong natural gas and oil sector can be the driver of Canada's economic recovery.”

Tim McMillan, president and CEO, CAPP

“Agriculture is the foundation of southern Alberta’s economy, a major source of employment and a critical element of the region’s economic recovery. From world class growers and producers throughout our diverse landscape to the value chain of niche innovators and global agrifood processing giants, investors and companies looking to grow in the food business really need to be here.”

Trevor Lewington, CEO, Economic Development Lethbridge

“This is a critical time for Alberta’s visitor economy and the Tourism Industry Association of Alberta (TIAA) has appreciated the government’s responsiveness to industry needs in areas such as the safe reopening of the economy, and assisting with operational liquidity for business through, and beyond, the summer season. TIAA is pleased to learn the government intends to launch the long-awaited 10-year tourism strategy this fall. As the industry voice that crosses all sectors of the visitor economy, TIAA has formulated a strategic policy playbook that both considers the impacts of COVID-19, and will support the recovery, growth and investment in the visitor economy. We are ready to work with the Government of Alberta to position the province as a leader in the development of its visitor economy.”

Alida Visbach, Chair of the Board, Tourism Industry Association of Alberta

“The Alberta Hotel and Lodging Association appreciates the government’s support for our industry in this unprecedented time of crisis, including the SME Relaunch Grant, abatement of the Tourism Levy, and consideration for extending the duration of temporary layoffs to 180 days. We look forward to the release of the 10 Year Tourism Strategy later this year to accelerate the recovery of our industry and to realize the full potential of the visitor economy.”

Dave Kaiser, President & CEO, Alberta Hotel and Lodging Association

“Having the government send a signal of support to the tech sector creates the opportunity for good news in what has been a difficult 2020. The sector will be growing, and we look forward to working with the government on a made-in-Alberta-for-Alberta technology strategy that creates jobs and strengthens our economy”

Scott Nye, Head of Game Studio Operations, Improbable

“Alberta’s screen-based industry is preparing to safely resume filming. Working with government to create a competitive production environment, we know we can generate thousands of new jobs, attract significant foreign investment and boost Alberta's economy throughout the province.”

Tom Cox, Executive Producer and Managing Partner, Seven24 Films

“Alberta is leading the way in attracting investment by actively working to reduce red tape so chemistry, plastics and other sectors can grow and thrive responsibly. The Natural Gas Strategy and efforts to provide impactful investment supports will help Alberta realize the opportunities of new investment, jobs, and growth in Alberta’s economy from the chemistry and plastics manufacturing sectors.”

Bob Masterson, President & CEO, Chemistry Industry Association of Canada

“On behalf of the Alberta Innovation Corridor and our highly-engaged and experienced tech leaders from around the province, we are encouraged to see the Government of Alberta make innovation a key pillar to the province’s economic recovery plan. Alberta’s startup and scaleup ecosystem is built on community connections and we remain committed to working with our government partners to move forward on a province-wide strategy for the sector. Alberta’s future prosperity depends on an economic diversification plan in which made-in-Alberta technology and innovation play a vital role on the global stage.”

Terry Rock, Co-Chair, Alberta Innovation Corridor