

September 21, 2020

Honourable Chrystia Freeland

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
Department of Finance Canada
90 Elgin Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G5

Dear Deputy Prime Minister Freeland:

As Western Canada's representative in the federal Cabinet, I am writing to you today in request of urgent support for the City of Regina in the up-coming Speech from the Throne.

In particular, I am requesting strong support for our local trade exposed industries and for the proposed Canada Water Agency headquarters to be located in our city.

Regina has been particularly hard hit in recent years, unlike municipalities in other parts of the country. \$150 billion worth of energy projects have been cancelled, many of them pipelines, which impacts our local economy.

One example is Evraz Steel, a large Regina employer and pipeline manufacturer. Evraz has cut many jobs and hundreds more are at risk.

Federal trade issues with China on canola have also weakened our agriculture sector which supports our community and economy. In 2019, we attracted several major events thanks to our new stadium and conference facilities, but the pandemic has halted any momentum there.

Regina is well-positioned to grow with our skilled workforce, increasing population and world-class infrastructure, but we need an economic booster shot.

We cannot burden our citizens or businesses with tax increases, and we cannot legally run a deficit.

That is why your government needs to play a critical role in providing this booster shot to Regina in the following four (4) areas:

1. Locating the proposed Canada Water Agency headquarters in Regina

Regina is perfectly positioned in the centre of the west, with major water projects like Saskatchewan's multibillion-dollar irrigation initiative.

With other capital cities having many more federal agencies, it is critical the new Canada Water Agency and associated jobs be located in Saskatchewan's capital.

2. Continued collaboration and funding from Protein Industries Canada (PIC) in Regina

PIC is a fantastic federal initiative critical to food security across the globe. Regina is a leader in protein-based exports and further funding for local businesses involved and research at the University of Regina should be considered.

3. Funding green infrastructure initiatives in Regina

Regina needs to pursue several projects to reduce our carbon footprint like the Buffalo Pound Water Treatment Plant, but it requires funding from other levels of government.

If your government wants to pursue a “green recovery”, funding for green municipal projects must be paramount.

4. Strong support for our energy intensive, trade exposed industries

Federal policy surrounding the energy industry has put a chilling effect on our investment climate.

Talk of a clean fuel tax adding to the burden of the other carbon tax or any further policy harming our industries hurts our economic prospects.

We can significantly reduce worldwide emissions by simply exporting more of our clean, sustainably produced energy to a world that needs it. That should be the priority.

In conclusion, I have appreciated your government’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic and direct support for our citizens and communities. I know it has not been easy.

As we continue to fight this virus and recover economically, municipalities like Regina will still need your significant support.

Thank you for your consideration on these matters and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Michael Fougere,
Mayor

cc: Honourable Jim Carr, M.P.
Special Advisor for Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba