

Tax and Economic Affairs Committee

Mandate

Our success in advocating for business-positive tax laws, and reductions to the regulatory burden that businesses face has made Calgary the leading engine for economic growth in the country. This committee's sought-after expertise on, and reaction to federal and provincial budgets makes it one of the Chamber's strongest players. It has also been effective in providing leadership and advocacy on competitive and 'Alberta Advantage' issues.

2007 – 2008 Committee Focus Areas

- Royalty Review
- Financial Investment and Planning Advisory Committee Submission
- Provincial and Federal Pre-Budget Submissions

Summary of Previous Year's Work

The committee commenced the year by providing input into the Chamber's response to Alberta's newly announced oil and gas royalty framework. Next, the committee helped compose the Chamber's submission to the Financial Investment Planning and Advisory Commission (FIPAC), which was soliciting ideas for provincial financial management and savings. The Chamber recommended that government commit to investing 35 per cent of non-renewable resource revenues in the HSTF and other endowments, and create a new \$5 billion energy research fund.

Later in the year, the committee formulated positions for the Chamber's annual pre-budget submissions to both the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada, both of which recommended limiting spending to a bandwidth based on growth in population and growth in the economy, and a focus on personal tax competitiveness. In the spring, the committee hosted local experts, and helped frame the Chamber's responses for the provincial and federal budgets. In addition to regular committee meetings, the group hosted the leader of the Liberal Party of Alberta Kevin Taft for a brief session after his keynote event at the Chamber.

Committee Meeting Guest Speakers

Date	Speaker	Topic
January 2008	Dr. Jack Mintz, Palmer Chair in Public Policy, University of Calgary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of the provincial and national economy
March 2008	Faye McCann, Executive Director, Alternative Financing, Treasury Board, Alberta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role and function of P3s
June 2008	Jeffrey Wright, Bank of Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiscal and monetary policy in Canada