



**NEWS RELEASE  
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**Chamber calls for federal MPs to work together and focus on economy**

(Calgary, AB) The Calgary Chamber of Commerce is calling on federal elected officials to place the public interest above partisan politics and focus on measures to improve investor and consumer confidence and stabilize the economy.

“The business community is deeply dismayed that political parties and their leaders would put the Canadian economy at greater risk by choosing this moment in history for political brinksmanship,” says Geoff Pradella, Vice-President of Public & Government Affairs with the Calgary Chamber of Commerce. “The only people who will pay the price are the Canadian people, Canadian investors, and Canadian businesses - and this is unacceptable.”

The current economic crisis is by far the most serious in over half a century. It threatens the survival of thousands of Canadian businesses and the well-being of millions of families. According to the Minister of Finance, Canada’s economy is now in recession, even if the severity and duration remain uncertain.

“Canada's reputation for political stability and certainty, and its strong economic fundamentals, have been an enormous advantage during this global fiscal storm,” says Pradella. “That reputation is now at risk, and we're seeing the repercussions on the market, and the dollar.”

The Calgary Chamber, in partnership with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, is calling on the government, with the support of all parties, to prepare a comprehensive strategy to respond to the economic crisis. Such a strategy would include:

- Undertaking immediate and intensive consultations with the business community and the provinces to develop a coordinated response to the economic crisis;
- Provide a level of stimulus appropriate to fostering economic growth, and contain a clear plan to avoid a return to long-term structural deficits; and
- Implement an accelerated timetable to eliminate internal barriers to trade and mobility, in concert with the provinces and territories.



“Now is the time for all of our elected officials, in Ottawa and across the country, to work with a singular focus on steering our country through the present financial turmoil, without distractions and disruptions,” says Pradella.

### **About the Chamber**

The Calgary Chamber of Commerce is a volunteer driven, not-for-profit, and non-partisan advocacy group whose mission is to lead and serve the Calgary business community, valuing its diversity.

On critical and emerging issues in public policy, the Chamber acts as the leading forum for debate, and advocates public policy solutions that improve the business climate on behalf of our members.

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