



PREMIER OF SASKATCHEWAN

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
REGINA, CANADA S4S 0B3

February 9, 2010

John Hopkins
Chief Executive Officer
Regina and District Chamber of Commerce
2145 Albert Street
REGINA SK S4P 2V1

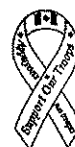
Dear Mr. Hopkins:

I am writing in follow up to our discussions held recently on the launch of The Big Idea.

I am pleased to see the interest in The Big Idea, and would like to thank those who have written in support of this initiative. Certainly, the goals of debt reduction and reducing the education portion of property taxes borne by ratepayers are goals shared by our government in spirit and in practice.

As you know, one of our first actions as government, was to pass *The Saskatchewan Growth and Financial Security Act*. This act establishes a fixed plan for budget surpluses, ensuring that half of all surpluses are committed to debt reduction and the other half goes to support economic growth initiatives, such as additional funding for infrastructure. Subsequently, we made an historic reduction in the debt of our province, reducing it by \$2.7 billion, or nearly 40 per cent. Further debt reductions are certainly possible in the future, as short term financial considerations see improvement.

...2

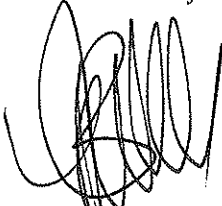


John Hopkins
Page 2
February 9, 2010

Our government also made the largest reduction in the education portion of property taxes in Saskatchewan's history, while taking measures to ensure these savings continue. Saskatchewan property owners now pay significantly less education property tax as a result of changes to pre-kindergarten to Grade 12 education funding; mill rates have been cut and capped by setting province-wide tax rates for each of the three major property classes - residential, commercial and agricultural. The overall amount of tax paid by property owners to fund education has been reduced by \$103 million, or 14 per cent, in 2009.

In closing, I applaud the Regina and District Chamber of Commerce for this constructive and innovative initiative, and I assure you it will be given due consideration by our government.

Sincerely,



Brad Wall
Premier

*Big Idea is
good stuff*

cc Honourable Rod Gantfoer
Minister of Finance

