

SUBJECT: Government Service Delivery Models

SUBMITTED BY: Investment and Growth Committee

BACKGROUND

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce has long advocated that the Saskatchewan government should adopt a philosophy of being the “procurer” of products and services and not the sole “provider” of products and services.

It is important for the Saskatchewan government to ensure that the businesses of the province have open access to markets that offer the opportunity for them to grow and thrive. The Government of Saskatchewan does not need to be the default provider of those products and services when there are private sector businesses that are willing, able, and often more efficient and effective at delivering those products and services to the people of Saskatchewan.

The Saskatchewan Chamber is pleased that this change in mindset appears to be working its way into the provincial government. The Chamber was hopeful with the objective announced in the Saskatchewan Party’s 2012 *Plan for Growth*:

“Continue to review government programs, services and activities to ensure they are not creating undue barriers to private sector growth while exploring alternative service delivery options for public services that could be provided by community-based organizations or the private sector.”

Nonetheless, the Saskatchewan Chamber is looking for more tangible action to be taken on this issue.

ISSUE

The Government of Saskatchewan is facing a looming labour crisis as large, experienced groups of public sector employees continue to retire and should continue to more aggressively transition to alternate service supply models as a means to enhance government productivity, achieve price competitiveness and provide high quality services to Saskatchewan citizens. The provincial government and its subsidiary state-owned enterprises should make better use of the knowledge and skills within the business community in order to ensure that the businesses providing the products or services and the people receiving those products or services benefit as much as possible from the efficient and effective use of scarce government resources.

RECOMMENDED

1) That the Government of Saskatchewan and its subordinate controlled entities implement pilot projects using a broader range of alternative service delivery models,

including private contractors, and also outsource projects when possible, similar to the various initiatives being undertaken in the area of health care. Where pilot projects demonstrate that more productive results are derived from the alternative delivery systems, the pilot or demonstration projects should be expanded.