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**ADVICE TO PREMIER SCOTT MOE  
ENSURING STRONG INVESTMENTS IN CANADA'S RESOURCES  
For Decision**

**ISSUE**

A discussion on growing economies and ensuring prosperity through increasing Canada-US and international trade, investing in infrastructure and supporting sustainable, green initiatives.

**PURPOSE**

To continue discussions on free trade and investment from the May 2018 Western Premiers Conference, and to build on prior discussions of free trade and the USMCA.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Encourage discussion on Canada-US international trade, competitiveness and market access, and infrastructure investments.
- Advocate for long-term and predictable funding that respects specific provincial and territorial fiscal capacities.
- Avoid discussions on the green initiatives, reducing GHG emissions and combatting climate change.
- Acknowledge Saskatchewan's investments in sustainable growth.
- Focus on sustainable growth and sustainable investments, and avoid focusing on green or renewable growth or infrastructure.

**OTHER OPTIONS**

- Continue conversations on reducing interprovincial trade barriers.

**RATIONALE**

- **Previous Western Premier's meeting:**
  - The last discussion on the same topic focused on: pharmacare, cannabis legalization, justice and community safety, Western and Northern prosperity, Canada-U.S. and international trade, competitiveness, market access, infrastructure and environmental assessment.
    - Environmental discussions focused on Bill C-69, and the potential barriers and regulations this bill may cause.
- **Environment:**
  - Canada committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions under the Paris Agreement. Saskatchewan did not sign the subsequent Pan-Canadian framework because of its inclusion of a carbon tax as the main approach to reducing emissions.
  - British Columbia's position is to focus on renewable technology and the green energy sector as a vehicle for sustained economic growth.
- **Federal agreements:**
  - In October 2018, Saskatchewan and the federal government signed an agreement to support infrastructure projects. These are cost-shared projects.
  - Since 2002, Infrastructure Canada projects have spent \$1.8 billion in total program funding in the province and funded 912 projects.
  - 45% of this funding has been on highways and roads; 24% has been spent on drinking water projects.

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## **STAKEHOLDER REACTION**

- Funding is not enough – aging plants need more funding for upgrades, such as the buffalo Pound Water treatment plant.
  - General manager of the plant is quoted in media saying plant is in need of much more significant upgrades after the October 2018 funding announcement for the plant.
- Moose Jaw and Regina Mayors are both supportive of funding and want to be engaged partners.

## **KEY MESSAGES**

- **Canada – US trade and international trade:**
  - We cannot talk about free trade internationally when internally we do not even have free trade.
  - Preserving free trade is critical for creating jobs and encouraging economic growth on both sides of the border.
  - Saskatchewan is pleased with the effort of the Government of Canada in negotiating the USMCA, but has continued concerns regarding free trade of aluminum as well as free trade with non-market economies.
- **Competitive and Market Access:**
  - Lowering interprovincial trade barriers is necessary to create new jobs, investment and growth.
  - Our government is committed to advocating for fairness and competitiveness for Saskatchewan’s industries and businesses.
- **Infrastructure:**
  - Our government and the federal government recently announced the signing of strategic investments in infrastructure that will build prosperous, resilient communities.
  - Our province benefits when the federal government provides long-term, predictable funding to meet the needs of the people of Saskatchewan.
  - We encourage the federal government to continue to invest in nation-building infrastructure projects. These are important in order to get our products to market.
- **Environment:**
  - Our government is committed to reducing emissions and making Saskatchewan more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

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