



Government  
— of —  
Saskatchewan

Minister of the Economy

Legislative Building  
Regina, Canada S4S 0B3

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JUL 14 2017

July 10, 2017

Mr. Steve McLellan  
Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce  
1630-1920 Broad Street  
REGINA SK S4P 3V2

Dear Mr. McLellan

Thank you for copying me on your letter of June 20, 2017, to the Honourable Patricia A. Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development, and Labour, in which you seek a fairer distribution of Employment Insurance (EI) dollars for Saskatchewan under the Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA).

I appreciate you raising this important issue with Minister Hajdu; our government shares your concerns wholeheartedly. As you point out in your letter, the LMDA funding allocation formula is in need of reform. The formula, which dates back to 1996 EI reforms, has not been proportionate, with Saskatchewan receiving less than an equal share of funding with respect to population, size of labour force, number of unemployment, number of EI recipients, and contribution levels. As a result, LMDA funding has not been responsive to shifting economic and labour market conditions across Canada. Even though Canadians pay the same amount into EI, they have varying access to training and employment programs depending on where they live in the country.

Fixing this funding imbalance is particularly timely in the context of our Labour Market Transfer Agreement negotiations with the federal government. Without rebalancing LMDA allocations, Saskatchewan EI contributors will not receive the full advantage from new, more flexible agreements. We are committed to pursuing this issue with the federal government and getting the best deal possible for Saskatchewan.

Thank you again for your letter and raising this important issue.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Harrison  
Minister

cc: Honourable Brad Wall, Premier of Saskatchewan  
Laurie Pushor, Deputy Minister, Economy