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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Saint John Region Chamber and Canadian Chamber welcome revised tax reforms and lower small business tax rate but remain concerned**

**Saint John, NB** — The Saint John Region Chamber of Commerce and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce welcome the government's plans to revise its proposed tax reforms and to reduce the small business tax rate as a result of the comments and concerns expressed through the national #ProtectGrowth campaign and in consultations.

"We applaud the government for listening to the concerns of small business owners, entrepreneurs and even caucus members. The new measures proposed today, while not perfect, are more balanced. We will be vigilant on their details and application, however," said David Duplisea, CEO of the Saint John Region Chamber.

Furthermore:

- We are still open to working with the government to ensure that these new proposed measures are more balanced and will accomplish their intended goal of providing a fairer tax system to Canadians, without hurting small businesses.
- This has to be the first step in a broader discussion on tax competitiveness, and lead to a discussion on how we can ensure that Canada has a system that is both fair and attractive to foreign and domestic investors

As Canadians celebrate Small Business Week, Chamber representatives congratulate the thousands of businesspeople who joined the mobilization and made their voices heard on this important issue affecting Canadian workers and employers.

The Saint John Region Chamber also noted the Minister's call for further input from Canadian businesses, and intends to continue providing a voice to ensure the tax system is simpler and less of a burden on Canada's competitiveness.

"It is always more productive when government and business work together. We can only hope the government will listen as we provide advice on those areas where more remains to be done, and that they will propose concrete data to back up their claims. The Canadian Chamber will be working with the Saint John Region Chamber and other chambers across the country for suggestions on reforms that can improve the competitiveness of Canada's tax system. Lowering the small business tax rate is one such measure, but there is still much room for improvement," said Perrin Beatty, President & CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. "We must ensure that Canada, and with it Saint John, remain attractive places to do business. Although there is a great deal of work to be done, today's announcement is a positive first step, but we expect more and we will be vigilant on the next steps," he concluded.

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*The Saint John Region Chamber of Commerce is a nationally accredited business organization dedicated to fostering an economic climate that enhances growth, prosperity, and an improved quality of life in the community. With more than 600 member businesses, representing the interests of 37,000 people, The Chamber is a dynamic advocate and the principal voice for the business community of Greater Saint John. It offers a variety of programs, activities, services, and networking opportunities designed to enhance the business prospects of members and the overall business climate of the area.*

*The Canadian Chamber of Commerce is the vital connection between business and the federal government. It helps shape public policy and decision-making to the benefit of businesses, communities and families across Canada with a network of over 450 chambers of commerce and boards of trade, representing 200,000 businesses of all sizes in all sectors of the economy and in all regions. News and information are available at [Chamber.ca](http://Chamber.ca) or follow us on Twitter @CdnChamberofCom.*

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Contact:

Dylan Folkins  
Membership Development & Marketing  
Saint John Region Chamber of Commerce  
506.634.8111  
[dfolkins@thechambersj.com](mailto:dfolkins@thechambersj.com)

Guillaum W. Dubreuil  
Director, Public Affairs and Media Relations  
Canadian Chamber of Commerce  
613.797.1860  
[gdubreuil@chamber.ca](mailto:gdubreuil@chamber.ca)