

## REGULATORY MODERNIZATION COUNCIL

### REGULATORY MODERNIZATION COUNCIL BACKGROUND

#### **Purpose:**

The Regulatory Modernization Council (RMC) will guide and direct regulatory reform and business service priorities that will make it easier for businesses to do business and interact with government. The Council will:

- Provide advice regarding proposed regulatory and service programs and policies;
- Make recommendations to the Enterprise Saskatchewan (ES) Board of Directors; and
- Assist the ES Board in monitoring progress towards meeting regulatory and service enhancement goals.

#### **Background:**

Enterprise Saskatchewan is a coordinating agency and will provide a bold and innovation approach to creating sustainable economic growth based on a commitment to three core principles including:

1. a clear focus and alignment of policies throughout government to support growth;
2. performance measurement and public accountability; and
3. stakeholder participation and collaborative decision-making.

Enterprise Saskatchewan will be the focal point for establishing broad partnerships involving all levels of government, industry, labour, Aboriginal people, post secondary institutions, and other stakeholders dedicated to the goal of sustainable economic growth. Through Enterprise Saskatchewan, the collective partnerships will advance provincial economic development goals and strategies, and set clear measurable targets for economic performance. In collaboration with industry and other partners, and with support from Executive Council, ministries, agencies, and Crown corporations, action will be taken to achieve the economic performance targets, encourage economic growth, and enhance the competitive position of our Province.

Enterprise Saskatchewan will establish strategic issues councils and sector teams to assist in advancing their objectives. These councils will play an important role in ensuring stakeholder collaboration and participation in policy-making and advancing growth strategies. The RMC will focus on regulatory reform and business service issues.

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### Scope of Responsibilities:

The RMC will provide advice on ways to reduce paper burden, and modernize and streamline the regulatory system to decrease compliance costs and uncertainty for business, without compromising public health, safety and the environment. In addition, the Council will provide advice on opportunities to improve current government service delivery to business.

Given the above, possible examples of RMC activities might include:

- guiding the development of a single window business portal;
- facilitating government's service standards and codes of conduct;
- advising on a consultative regulatory registry for new and amended regulations;
- reviewing Saskatchewan's business fee structure and benchmarking those fees with those contained in other jurisdictions;
- evaluating current regulatory review processes like the Regulatory Impact Assessment and identifying any possible improvements;
- identifying potential opportunities to utilize alternative regulatory tools like performance-based regulations, self-regulatory frameworks, adopting standards and codes of practice, voluntary compliance, etc.;
- identifying opportunities to harmonize regulations and standards with other provinces and trading partners; and
- assessing opportunities to better co-ordinate Saskatchewan's regulatory reform and business service activities with federal government initiatives.

### Resulting Outcomes:

RMC activities will result in the following:

#### 1. A Strategic Direction

Regulatory reform and improving business services is a comprehensive and strategic activity. This Council will be expected to develop a strategic direction which will guide the government's current and future activities related to business regulation and services. Therefore, Council members are expected to provide constructive input in developing this strategic direction.

#### 2. Accepted Priorities

Given the extensive business regulatory and services framework within the Government of Saskatchewan, there is a need to prioritize and establish time frames for specific Council activities. In addition to establishing the criteria for establishing these priorities, the Council will also monitor and report on meeting those priorities.

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### 3. Improved Communication

Council members will be expected to reflect the interests of the business community for enhanced regulatory and business services. Members will ensure input from a variety of individuals and groups on the overall direction and priorities being established by the Council. As well, Council members would ensure reporting of the status, direction, and progress of the RMC to constituents.

### 4. A Centre of Expertise

During the course of their activities, the RMC will develop an expertise in the areas of business regulatory reform and service delivery. As a result, the Council members and the assigned ES staff will emerge as provincial experts and spokespeople on those topics.

### 5. Demonstrated Leadership

Regulatory reform and improving business services is a stated priority for both the Government of Saskatchewan and the Board of Enterprise Saskatchewan. There is an expectation that the RMC will assume the lead role on those topics.

## **Structure and Operations:**

- The RMC is a 'standing' committee with an ability to establish 'ad hoc' committees, using external expertise, to address specific issues related to regulatory reform or business services.
- On an annual basis, the Chair of this Council will be selected from all current members appointed to the RMC.
- Recommendations, prescribed actions, and progress reports will be provided through the chairperson to the Enterprise Saskatchewan Board and its CEO for consideration, review, and public reporting. Policy recommendations endorsed by the Board will be submitted to Cabinet and the legislature for consideration and endorsement.
- This Council is mandated by the Board of Enterprise Saskatchewan and will report back to that Board, at a minimum, every six months, on its activities and recommendations respecting regulatory reform and business service improvement.
- This Council will consult, on a periodic basis, with Chairs of other strategic issue councils or sector teams to discuss and address items of mutual interest and concern.
- Enterprise Saskatchewan staff will provide in-house secretariat and research support for this Committee.
- Enterprise Saskatchewan may contract additional research and analytical services on behalf of the Councils.
- Guests and technical experts may attend and/or present at meetings with the approval of the Chairperson.
- While the Council members will determine meeting times, locations, and agendas, there is an expectation that this Council will meet at least four times annually, and likely more often during the first year of operation.