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LEE RICHARDSON

Member of Parliament

Calgary Centre

Phillip Hatch
President and CEO
Ventoro Institute
1983 Northeast 51st Avenue
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May 9, 2008

Dear Mr. Hatch,

As the Member of Parliament for Calgary Centre, I am acutely aware of the severe labour shortages that are clouding Alberta's growth prospects. Many Canadian firms, both large and small, are located in my riding and every day these companies tell me that they cannot find the skilled people they need to carry through the investments being made in our province. For example, investment in Alberta's oil sands will exceed \$20 billion this year alone and will likely exceed \$150 billion over the next ten years. The shortage of skilled labour is adversely affecting all Albertans and it is not a problem that is going away. The time for solutions is now.

I am delighted at the opportunity to work with you and the Ventoro Institute, in cooperation with Services Canada (for labour market opinions), Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Government of Alberta to address this problem. Your experience as a non-profit global sourcing and economic development think tank and your previous work with both employers and public organizations will be invaluable. The fact you are regularly cited by major research firms and have contributed global sourcing research to organizations such as Forrester, Brookings Institute, World Intellectual Property Organization, European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, IMF and World Bank speaks highly of your expertise in this field. Your close association with the Government of Ukraine is particularly relevant as that country is a strong potential source of skilled workers for Alberta.

I am grateful for your advice on how to help Alberta companies find the skilled workers they need both now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Lee Richardson
Member of Parliament
Calgary Centre