

March 22, 2023

Convenience Industry Council of Canada (CICC) Statement  
on Saskatchewan's 2023 Budget

The Convenience Industry Council of Canada (CICC) congratulates Premier Scott Moe on tabling Budget 2023 for Saskatchewan. Like many businesses and taxpayers in Saskatchewan, convenience store operators and wholesale distributors are facing challenges on many fronts.

There are 984 retail convenience stores in Saskatchewan with over 8,400 employees. We have a significant impact in local communities and on the provincial economy. Every year our operators collect over \$540 million in tax revenue for the government. Yet, too many stores are closing as contraband tobacco proliferates, retail safety issues emerge and labour shortages continue.

“When a store closes, not only does it impact the entire community: from shift workers who need to fuel up to the parent that needs milk late at night. But it also impacts provincial coffers. On average each store collects \$550,000 in provincial taxes annually. Between 2020 and 2021, 33 stores closed in Saskatchewan. That’s \$18 million less to the provincial government and jobs and convenience gone for good in a community,” noted Sara MacIntyre, CICC’s Vice-President for Western Canada.

The CICC applauds the return to budget surpluses and investments to address the protection of persons and property, particularly the \$7 million towards the new Saskatchewan Marshals Service.

“While the CICC welcomes the absence of increased tobacco taxes in this year’s budget, it won’t be enough to address the impact that contraband tobacco is having on law-abiding retailers. As front-line heroes during the pandemic, convenience store owners and employees were critical for countless people in need. Now, as we try to recover, we need the provincial government to help us and tackle contraband tobacco. The new Saskatchewan Marshal Service is an ideal unit to focus on contraband tobacco and its extensive trafficking network. We look forward to working with the Premier and Minister Eyre to address these urgent issues. It will not only help our members but also improve community safety,” concluded MacIntyre.

The CICC is a national, not-for-profit association uniting retailers, manufacturers and distributors in the convenience industry who employ more than 200,000 Canadians and sell more than \$54 billion annually in goods and services. In Saskatchewan, the CICC represents more than 984 stores and 8,462 employees in the

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