
















## The Chamber's Scorecard

### 2011 Pre-budget Presentation to the Provincial Government

Criteria	Performance Rating					Notes
	Poor	Fair	Good	VGood	Excellent	
Dotted lines show impact of recent initiatives.						
<b>Fiscal Stewardship</b>						
Fiscal Reporting						1
Long Term Fiscal Balance						2
Short Term Fiscal Balance						3
Size of Prov. Gov. in Proportion to Economy						4
Tax Structure & Rates						5
Own Source Revenues as % of GDP						6
Municipal Accountability						7
<b>Competitiveness</b>						
Attraction of International Immigrants						8
Retention of International Immigrants						9
Export Promotion						10
Education, Training, Skill Development						11
Energy Costs						12
Industrial Strategy						13
Access to Capital						14
Regulatory Environment						15

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1	The Provincial Government deserves a good rating on reporting its fiscal performance and position. Weaknesses are: i) the lack of any output or performance data in the Annual Budget ii) audited Public Accounts could be produced closer to the end of the fiscal year for more timely reporting.
2	The material presented in this Brief supports the low rating on long term fiscal performance.
3	The low rating on short term fiscal performance reflects the size of the annual deficit in the past two years and the fact that the Province says it will not have a balanced budget until 2013 -14.
4	The Chamber remains concerned over the share of the economy taken up by the Provincial Government and the competition created when government undertakes activities that could and should be provided by the private sector.
5	Significant factors in determining competitiveness are tax structure and tax rates. The Chamber continues to argue for a thorough review to ensure the tax system is not limiting business viability and competitiveness. Two concerns regarding business attraction and expansion are the non-deductibility of input tax credits and the relatively high tax rate on corporations earning over \$500k per year.
6	The growth of Own Source Revenues as a % of GDP is a source of concern. It is increasing with no change in sight.
7	In our last submission, the Chamber requested the Provincial Government implement the requirement that all cities and towns report on performance, utilizing standardized indicators and format. Despite significant interest in the suggestion, the Chamber is not aware of any action.
8	The attraction of international immigrants is most welcome and encouraging. The Provincial Government gets high marks on this criterion.
9	The new Settlement Strategy is more than a step in the right direction. It was developed with full consultation, is practical and doable. The dotted line shows the impact of the Strategy on this criterion.
10	The Chamber is extremely pleased with the many trade and export initiatives.
11	The Chamber is somewhat satisfied with opportunities for education, training and skill development. There are, however, serious shortfalls including the quality and performance of the K-12 system that can impact the province's ability to attract and retain skilled workers, entrepreneurs and immigrants (reference poor results in interprovincial and international testing). The province cannot afford to be known as having an educational system of less than acceptable quality. A further concern is the lack of funding for training of employed workers.
12	Energy costs, particularly electricity, has been a perennial concern of our members. The recent Accord will give some welcome relief - thus the dashed rating.
13	While the Provincial Government's Prosperity Strategy is fully supported by the Chamber, there needs to be more attention to existing businesses and their requirements to succeed and expand.
14	Although access to capital for business expansion or new ventures has been addressed in conjunction with the Prosperity Strategy, our members find financing and access to capital from traditional sources to be most challenging.
15	The Chamber has always pressed for a simpler and streamlined regulatory environment. The rating reflects Government's awareness of the regulatory burden on small business but is tempered by the limited attempts by government to address the issue.