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January 11th, 2006

Secretary
Employment Standards Code Review
614-401 York Avenue
Winnipeg MB R3C 0P8

Re: Employment Standards Code Review

On behalf of Economic Development Brandon, I applaud the Provincial Government for initiating a review of the employment standards to ensure they reflect the realities of the modern economy and inviting public input.

The need to modernize employment standards has been recognized across Canada as a priority. In response, the Federal Government embarked on an extensive and inclusive review, research and consultation process that began in fall 2004, and is nearing conclusion. The Federal review process underway is being described as state-of-the-art, and there is no doubt that much of this research will be relevant to the Provincial review.

Understanding how Employment Standards impact productivity and competitiveness is critical if we are to ensure we are able to meet the objectives set for in the "*Growing Manitoba's Economy*" section of the 2005 Throne Speech. Without this understanding, how can Manitobans provide educated comments on the provisions currently under review? The extremely short timelines associated with the Provincial review has severely limited the ability of Manitobans to familiarize themselves with the provisions under review and provide knowledgeable input. These timelines also prevent Manitobans from taking advantage of the findings of the Federal review.

Unfortunately the tight timelines associated with the Provincial Employment Standards Code Review prevent me from commenting on the provisions under review in an informed manner. I strongly encourage the Manitoba Labour Management Review Committee to extend the timelines associated with this review. An extension would provide the opportunity for greater education of, and consultation with Manitobans, and allow everyone involved in the review process to benefit from the findings of the Federal Research on this topic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sandy Trudel".

Sandy Trudel
Economic Development Officer
City of Brandon