

## **BACKGROUND**

The Taxpayer Service Commitments and Standards Code is a response to calls from small business for less red tape and more transparency in government regulation.

The code was developed in consultation with the Canadian Federation of Independent business (CFIB), which has long-standing concerns about the cost of regulation to small business.

A CFIB survey of its membership has shown that while business recognizes regulation is necessary, too much of it limits consumer choices and raises prices. Business identifies regulations as the second biggest issue it faces, following total tax burden.

In response to these concerns, the Ministry of Finance embarked on a round of consultations with a range of business groups to seek consensus on how to improve government accountability.

The resulting code has been reviewed and endorsed by the CFIB and by Saskatchewan's Regulatory Modernization Council, a private-sector led group established by Enterprise Saskatchewan to explore means of streamlining interaction between government and the private sector.

Similar codes are in place in other jurisdictions, including British Columbia, Ontario and the federal Canada Revenue Agency.