

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **CANADIAN BUSINESSES TO GOVERNMENT: “FOCUS ON ECONOMY”**

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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Vancouver, December 5, 2008** – The Canadian Chamber of Commerce has reached out to businesses across the country this week to find out exactly how they are reacting to the current political uncertainty in the face of the global economic crisis.

The survey results, released today, send a very clear message to the Federal Government: Get back on track.

“Businesses in BC and across the country are telling the government that it’s time to put citizens first and politics aside,” said John Winter, President & CEO of the BC Chamber of Commerce. “The economy is and should be our country’s priority. This is not the time to lose that focus.”

This survey is the latest of several appeals to the Federal Government to cease their internal struggles and work together on safeguarding Canada against the economic turbulence.

Of chief concern to British Columbians is the potentially negative impact the political instability will have on Canada’s international image. As a province which relies heavily on its export markets, and thus relies directly on Canada’s reputation as a stable and reliable trading partner, any political maneuvering which so publicly calls our stability into question is particularly troubling.

“The federal political parties of Canada must begin immediately to redress any damage which may have been incurred as a result of their recent actions,” said Winter. “The businesses and citizens of this country have made their needs and views very clear – the government should be reading the skywriting.”

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