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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **BC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CONGRATULATES PROVINCE ON FOCUSED SPEECH FROM THE THRONE**

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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 16, 2009** – The BC Chamber of Commerce was pleased Monday, as the BC Government delivered its Speech from the Throne, to hear a pragmatic plan presented with a clear focus on the issue of utmost importance today – the economy.

Among the measures announced today, the Chamber was particularly reassured to note that raising BC's minimum wage would not be one of them.

"We are glad to see that the government has recognized that raising minimum wage is not a viable way to stimulate the economy," said John Winter, President & CEO of the BC Chamber of Commerce. "In so doing they have saved thousands of dollars in extra expenses to small businesses in the province who are already struggling to survive."

The Chamber also expressed their continued approbation of the government's efforts to ensure that new resource opportunities in the province are explored and developed for the benefit of all British Columbians.

"Initiatives that develop the resource opportunities in the province, such as the Northwest Transmission Line, and the commitment to explore offshore oil and gas, will be cornerstones in the work to rebuild our economy," stated Winter. "The government has demonstrated today that they are ready to take on that work."

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