
NEWS RELEASE

BC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE APPLAUDS PREMIER'S DECISION TO REMOVE COQUIHALLA TOLLS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Penticton, September 26, 2008 – The BC Chamber of Commerce welcomed Premier Gordon Campbell's announcement that the tolls on the Coquihalla Highway will be removed immediately. The Premier made the announcement today during his address to the Union of BC Municipalities in Penticton.

"While the Chamber supports the use of tolls in specific cases as a source of funding for new transportation developments," says John Winter, President & CEO of the BC Chamber of Commerce. "The Coquihalla has long ceased to be one of these cases."

The BC Chamber has been encouraging the Provincial Government to revisit its policy on tolling. The Chamber believes the use of tolling is justified, but should be reserved for roads in urban areas which combine a need for development and maintenance with a need to manage traffic demand.

"Tolling should only be employed where it will control the flow of traffic – not impede it," states Winter. "We are pleased to see the province is adjusting its use of tolling accordingly."

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