

NEWS RELEASE

BC Chamber disappointed by transit plebiscite result

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vancouver, July 2, 2015 – The BC Chamber of Commerce is disappointed with the plebiscite results, but will continue to work with all Metro Vancouver stakeholders and levels of government to ensure Metro Vancouver gets the transit and transportation improvements the region needs to continue to grow and prosper. The Chamber would like to thank all Metro residents and organizations who participated in the democratic process.

“The residents of Metro Vancouver have spoken, and though the results of the plebiscite are not what we hoped for, the Chamber network respects the decision made by the voters,” said Jon Garson, Vice President of Policy Development and Government Relations of the BC Chamber. “The Chamber is proud of the effort put forward within the Chamber network, as well as the efforts of our Better Transit and Transportation Coalition partners and the Mayors’ Council to highlight the need for more investment in the system to keep goods and people moving throughout the region.”

While the majority of Metro Vancouver residents defeated the 0.5 % regional increase to the provincial sales tax put forward by the Mayors’ Council in support of their transit and transportation plan, the Chamber doesn’t feel the result is a defeat for much needed transit and transportation improvements within Metro Vancouver.

“We’re not aware of a single person who said no to the transit and transportation infrastructure investments presented in the Mayors’ Council plan, not even those opposed to sales tax increase said no to the improvements.” Garson said. “The Chamber will take some time to review the results of the vote and the different positions advanced during the campaign to better understand what Metro residents told us.”

The Chamber recognizes the need to continue advocating for transit and transportation improvements for Metro Vancouver.

“The BC Chamber and its network is clear that solid, reliable transportation and transit infrastructure is the bedrock of a strong and healthy economy,” continued Garson. “The BC Chamber looks forward to continuing its role as an advocate for more investment in needed transit and transportation infrastructure along with being a leading voice on how we pay for this investment.”

The BC Chamber is the largest and most broadly-based business organization in the province. Representing more than 125 Chambers of Commerce and 36,000 businesses of every size, sector and region of the province, the BC Chamber of Commerce is “The Voice of Business in BC.”

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