

NEWS RELEASE

BC Chamber welcomes Site C approval

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vancouver, December 16, 2014 – The BC Chamber of Commerce welcomes the B.C. government’s decision to approve Site C.

“B.C.’s economy has been built on reliable, low-cost power – but our aging infrastructure threatens that,” said John Winter, president and CEO of the BC Chamber. “By committing to building Site C, government is investing in B.C.’s continued access to the energy we need to take B.C. forward.”

Winter noted that reliable, low-cost power has long been a major competitive advantage for B.C. as a business jurisdiction.

“Reliable, affordable power allows our businesses to compete nationally and globally and to create jobs right here in B.C.” Winter said. “It’s a key factor in our province’s economic success.”

Winter commended government for making a tough but critical decision.

“Site C is the largest investment decision our province will make in a generation. But let’s be clear: Today’s decision was the right decision for our economy and our future,” Winter said.

The BC Chamber’s province-wide membership has recognized the need for aggressive action on both the supply and demand side of the province’s energy mix. As part of this, BC Chamber members have long backed Site C as a strategic investment in reliable, publicly-owned energy infrastructure.

Winter added that B.C.’s future energy needs will go beyond Site C.

“Site C will have a significant role to play, however we anticipate that B.C. will need to leverage its full basket of energy options including oil, natural gas, renewable energy and hydro assets to power our economy.”

Site C will be the third dam and hydroelectric generating station on the Peace River in northeast B.C. It will generate clean and renewable power, produce low amounts of greenhouse gas emissions and have a relatively small reservoir footprint for the 5,100 gigawatt hours of energy it will produce – enough to power 450,000 homes a year.

BC Hydro estimates that the project will generate approximately 10,000 direct jobs and an additional 23,000 indirect jobs, and contribute \$3.2 billion to B.C.'s GDP. In addition, Site C will generate firm power for more than a century.

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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