

NEWS RELEASE

BC Chamber welcomes work done under Small Business Accord, urges continued momentum

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vancouver, October 23, 2013 – As B.C. celebrates Small Business Week, the BC Chamber welcomes recent gains for small businesses under B.C.'s new Small Business Accord and urges continued momentum on the Accord's implementation.

“This Accord has the potential to be a game changer for B.C.'s small businesses,” said John Winter, the BC Chamber's president and CEO. “Already, we've seen some tangible action flow out of the Accord including a new staff appointment to help tackle red tape and the creation of an awards program to encourage municipalities to act in the spirit of the Accord.”

The government's planned actions under the Accord can be found [here](#). Some key actions taken to date include the [appointment](#) of a senior adviser to help small businesses cut red tape and the [launch](#) of Open for Business Awards with a cash prize of \$10,000 for winning municipalities.

Winter said the challenge going forward will be to maintain momentum on implementing the Accord.

“This Accord is full of bold principles but it's important that we don't get complacent and assume that just by articulating those principles the job is done,” Winter said. “We encourage the government to keep driving the implementation of the Accord, and we encourage B.C. businesses to help the government get it right by participating in consultation efforts.”

B.C.'s small businesses can share their insights on how to implement the Accord on Twitter using the hashtags #BCBizChat or #SmallBizBC. Businesses and business organizations can also request a consultation with the Small Business Roundtable in their community on Accord issues (info and consultation request forms [here](#)).

B.C.'s Small Business Accord was [signed into force](#) on March 19. The BC Chamber played a pivotal role in calling for the Accord and partnering with the provincial government to deliver it.

The Accord contains principles about considering the needs of small business in policy and program decisions; fostering a regulatory environment that small businesses can navigate

efficiently; deploying training programs to meet the needs of small business; and enhancing small business' access to government contracts.

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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