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## NEWS RELEASE

### **BC Business Supports Infrastructure Expansion To Open Gateways To Trade - Survey**

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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 5, 2012 – Vancouver, BC** - The province's business community has delivered a strong endorsement for new infrastructure to expand British Columbia's trade corridors between the Asia Pacific and North American markets. 87 per cent of those surveyed said they support the expansion and development of transportation infrastructure according to a new business survey released this evening at the BC Chamber of Commerce Transportation Summit at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver.

"Business people realize that investment in our transportation system is crucial for a sustainable economic future", said John Winter, President & CEO of the BC Chamber of Commerce. "The movement of goods and services benefits every region of our province, and as Canada's Pacific Gateway, every region of the country, and therefore every type of business."

The Chamber Survey also highlighted at 63 per cent of those contacted doubt that BC residents understand the importance and benefits of strengthened trade by way of the Canadian Pacific gateway...thus representing a true communications opportunity for advocates of the Gateway.

"BC has a new transportation blueprint to support our unprecedented expansion in trade with Asia to 2020, based on business and community input," said Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Blair Leckstrom. "By listening to our partners and working collaboratively, we will continue to create jobs and more prosperity for all British Columbians."

The BC Chamber survey also shows business people have strong, positive feelings about the Nexus border crossing model with the United States when asked if this system should be expanded and simplified to speed up boarder activity between Canada and the United States.

"Our Markets lie in all directions", says John Winter. BC is an important gateway from Canada to the world by water, land and air. Canada truly does start here. This is being emphasized for two days at our Chamber Transportation Summit. The BC Chamber wants to encourage investment in our transportation system for long-term prosperity and sustainable employment."

The BC Chamber Internet Survey was conducted by the Spark group during the last two weeks of May and polled 502 members of the business community from every region of the province.

*The BC Chamber is the largest and most broadly based business organization in the province. Representing over 120 Chambers of Commerce and 32,000 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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