

NEWS RELEASE

BC Chamber applauds Ottawa's approval of Pacific NorthWest LNG project

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vancouver, September 27, 2016 – The BC Chamber of Commerce supports the federal cabinet's decision to approve the Pacific NorthWest LNG project in Port Edward, a potential \$35 billion investment.

“This will be the largest private-sector development in our country's history, and today's decision is monumental step towards securing not only the future of B.C., but could also mean a much-needed boost for the Canadian economy,” said Val Litwin, president and CEO of the BC Chamber of Commerce. “We applaud the federal government for making the right decision for our province and our country today.”

Litwin said today's decision is welcomed by businesses from across B.C. that would be integrated into the supply chain to support the construction of the Pacific NorthWest LNG terminal, pipelines and related infrastructure.

“This project is especially important for northern B.C. communities – Prince Rupert and Port Edward have already seen benefits during the development phase, and upstream communities like Fort St. John and Fort Nelson will see tremendous avenues open up for exports and development,” said Litwin. “The benefits aren't isolated, communities all along the pipeline that will offer support services will also see job creation which allows local young people to stay and work in their hometowns.”

Construction of the facility would create up to 4,500 jobs, and the operations of the facility would sustain up to 330 long-term operational careers. The opportunities for B.C. businesses will not be confined to just construction and technical services, but could also mean 300 spin-off jobs in other sectors including the hospitality industry, trucking, transportation, and hardware.

Litwin added that while it is still up to Pacific NorthWest LNG to determine if the project will proceed to FID (final investment decision), today's decision sends a positive message to potential B.C. investors.

“B.C.’s future growth will depend heavily on private-sector investment,” Litwin said. “This decision shows that B.C. is open for businesses and stands ready to send its goods into global markets.”

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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For further details, please contact:

Neha Prihar
Communications Coordinator
BC Chamber of Commerce
T 604.638.8114
E nprihar@bcchamber.org