
NEWS RELEASE

BC Chamber Calls for Municipal and Education Reform

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 26, 2012 - Penticton, BC – The BC Chamber of Commerce will be calling on the Provincial Government to enable forced municipal amalgamation, fundamentally reform the education system to meet the needs of the economy and establish a trans-Canada post secondary strategy. These are just three of the new policies adopted by Member Chambers of Commerce at the BC Chamber Annual General Meeting 2012 in Penticton.

“Two major areas of concern for businesses around the province are skills development and local government,” said John Winter, President & CEO of the BC Chamber of Commerce.

The BC Chamber of Commerce will be calling on the Provincial Government to:

- Amend section 279 of the Community Charter to enable municipal amalgamation by order of the province;
- Undertake a fundamental review of the school curriculum to ensure that students are receiving the necessary skills employers are looking for; and
- Work with the Federal Government to establish a permanent multi-government Council on Learning to develop a trans-Canadian strategy on post secondary education.

“Regional efficiencies and international competitiveness are very important issues to the continued evolution of our communities,” continued Winter. “While some municipalities may be willing to examine their own governance in the context of long-term regional growth and improvements, others will never seriously consider the question due to self-interest.”

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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