

NEWS RELEASE

Chamber Welcomes Responsible Resource Development Plan as Critical to BC's Economic Prosperity

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Victoria, April 17, 2012 – The BC Chamber of Commerce welcomed the comprehensive Responsible Resource Development Plan released today as one that would streamline the approval process for major resource projects with a view to creating a ‘one project, one process’ framework.

“BC’s economic future will depend on the strength of our resource industries”, said John Winter, President & CEO of the BC Chamber of Commerce. “Far too many projects have had to navigate a maze of processes and departments that did nothing to improve environmental protection but did everything to chase away investment.”

The changes announced today will see a reduction in federal agencies responsible for project reviews from 40 to 3, define timeframes for the review process, and most importantly will allow equivalency with provincial processes to ensure that a project goes through one process rather than two. These changes will provide potential investors with far more certainty around the approvals process than currently exists.

“In BC alone there are literally billions of dollars in BC projects that are stuck in limbo, having been approved by the province but still waiting for federal approval,” continued Winter. “These projects represent both jobs and economic prosperity for communities across the province. These changes will not only see these projects move forward, but will also attract new investment to BC and Canada.”

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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