



## **NEWS RELEASE**

## The BC Chamber welcomes The Vancouver Board of Trade, strengthening "The Voice of Business in B.C."

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nanaimo, May 24, 2013 – The BC Chamber of Commerce is delighted to welcome The Vancouver Board of Trade as its newest member.

"The BC Chamber is a potent policy force in the province – and our strength comes from our membership," said John Winter, president and CEO of the BC Chamber. "In welcoming The Vancouver Board of Trade as our newest member, we formalize a longstanding relationship with an outstanding business organization and broaden our reach as "The Voice of Business in B.C."

The addition of The Vancouver Board of Trade increases the BC Chamber's represented businesses to 36,000 businesses from 32,000. These businesses come from every sector and region in the province, and span every company size.

"In formalizing our relationship with The Vancouver Board of Trade, we enhance our ability to drive business-friendly policy in B.C," Winter said. "This is great news for our membership and for all businesses in B.C."

The Vancouver Board of Trade has been working on behalf the region's business community for more than 126 years, to promote prosperity through commerce, trade, and free enterprise. Throughout its history, the organization has championed many of the projects that now define Metro Vancouver, and has helped shape Vancouver into one of the greatest cities in the world in which to live, work, and invest.

"The Vancouver Board of Trade is very excited about this new partnership with our provincial counterparts at the BC Chamber of Commerce," said Iain Black, President and CEO of The Vancouver Board of Trade. "Working together will allow us to act as a unified voice for business in British Columbia, and we firmly believe this partnership will help us push the dial forward on important issues that will affect the economic prosperity of all British Columbians."

The Board of Trade currently represents thousands of business members — which collectively make up roughly one third of the entire workforce in B.C. This partnership with the BC Chamber of Commerce is a meaningful step forward for business in British Columbia.





"We look forward to collaborating with the BC Chamber on important public policy issues," said Black. "When combined with the voice and influence of the BC Chamber, our unique strength and perspective derived from our stature in the Lower Mainland will enable us to increase the focus, and amplify the message and the impact of our efforts on those issues important to our members."

The BC Chamber and The Vancouver Board of Trade look forward to better serving their members through this new partnership.

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