
NEWS RELEASE

'Buy American' agreement is a positive step forward

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ottawa, February 5, 2010: The BC Chamber of Commerce commends the governments of Canada and the United States on reaching a productive and forward-looking agreement on Buy American provisions.

“This represents an important step towards continued engagement with our largest trading partner,” said John Winter, President and CEO of the BC Chamber of Commerce.

The agreement puts Canadian and BC companies in a better position to benefit from remaining U.S. infrastructure stimulus funding, and establishes a mechanism for negotiating further access to U.S. markets.

“While more work needs to be done to counter protectionism in the United States, this agreement places us in a stronger position than our competitors to receive U.S. stimulus funding,” added Mr. Winter. “This is also the result of greater co-operation between provinces, territories and the federal government – a long-awaited, but very welcome accomplishment. The depth of the joint federal-provincial offer, and the speed at which it was put forth, is an important precedent which puts us in a good position for negotiating future agreements.”

“We must continue to work with the United States to strengthen our ties and to develop solutions that are beneficial to both parties,” concluded Winter.

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