

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Canadian Chamber of Commerce supporting Canadian tourism sector**

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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**OTTAWA** – Chambers of Commerce from across the province today welcomed the announcement that a policy resolution calling on the Federal Government to help bring more visitors to BC, make tourism operators more competitive and create more jobs was passed at the Canadian Chamber Annual General Meeting on Monday, September 27, 2010.

“Restructuring the tourist tax rebate system is critically important to BC’s tourism industry,” said John Winter, President and CEO of the BC Chamber of Commerce. “Having the support of the Canadian Chamber will go a long way to help remove this burden from our tourism sector.”

The current rebate system is called the Foreign Convention and Tour Incentive Program (FCTIP). It only targets group tour operators and is excessively complex for businesses to administer. Many simply absorb the tax, which would otherwise be rebated, and add it to their tour price. This makes tourism businesses less competitive with other international operators all vying for the same potential tourists. The BC Chamber policy resolution which was passed focuses on restructuring the FCTIP and calls on Ottawa to eliminate the complex administrative procedure involved, ensure that the HST fully applies, and that a system which applies to individual travelers is created.

“There is a very real export nature to the tourism industry in BC which is often overlooked,” continued Winter. “It brings in a great deal of foreign investment and revenue to this province which is extremely important to the economy.”

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For further details contact;

John Winter  
President & CEO, BC Chamber of Commerce  
W 604 638 8110  
C 604.376.3577  
E [jwinter@bcchamber.org](mailto:jwinter@bcchamber.org)