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## NEWS RELEASE

### Independent HST Panel to Compare Options for Coming Referendum

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Vancouver, January 25, 2011** – Chambers of Commerce from across the province today welcomed the announcement that an independent panel will be formed to report on the options facing BC in the coming HST referendum.

“British Columbians need to understand the full implications of going back to the PST,” said John Winter, President and CEO of the BC Chamber of Commerce. “The creation of this independent panel will ensure that the necessary facts are available to voters in the province before they will be faced with a very important decision.”

The newly appointed panel will report to British Columbians with a fact-based analysis of the implications of keeping the HST or returning to the PST and GST sales tax system. The panel has 10 weeks to complete its work and will announce its final report by the first week of April 2011.

“Given that this is such a critical step in the public education process, the BC Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the legislated procedure which calls for a referendum to take place in September 2011,” continued Winter. “The public debate over the HST has seen a lack of focus on the tax itself, and this timeline will give voters ample opportunity to weigh the facts and consider what is at stake.”

More information on this panel is available at the [newly launched HST website](#).

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