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## NEWS RELEASE

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Office of the Premier

### **PREMIER APPOINTS NEW ASIA-PACIFIC, COMPETITION COUNCILS**

VANCOUVER – Premier Gordon Campbell today announced the formation of a new B.C. Competition Council and the chair of the Province’s Asia-Pacific Trade Council. Comprised of leading British Columbians, the councils will advise government on new strategies for B.C.’s economic future.

“We are living in a new age of global connection, global competition, and global opportunity. We need to examine our challenges and our opportunities and we need to act,” said Campbell. “The Competition Council is made up of people who know B.C. and who believe in its potential.

“The B.C. Competition Council will advise us on making our economy more competitive, more productive and more attractive to job-creating investment. Under the leadership of Arthur Hara, the Asia-Pacific Trade Council will advise us on creating new opportunities and new partnerships in key Asia-Pacific markets.”

The B.C. Competition Council will be co-chaired by former premier Dan Miller and Teck-Cominco CEO David Thompson. They will be joined on the council by:

- David Black, president and owner of Black Press, the largest private newspaper publisher in Canada.
- Bev Briscoe, a chartered accountant and chair of the Industry Training Authority.
- Russell Horner, president and CEO of NorskeCanada.
- Judi Korbin, an independent arbitrator and mediator with experience in both the public and private sectors.
- Dr. Daniel Muzyka, Dean of the Sauder School of Business at UBC.
- Gerri Sinclair, technology executive and former president of the Premier's Technology Council.
- Roger Stanyer, a forestry and labour relations consultant.

By January, 2006, the Competition Council is expected to submit recommendations to government for improving the competitiveness of key economic sectors, including: forestry; pulp and paper; mining; oil and gas; biotechnology and other technology sectors; professional, scientific and technical services; film and media; tourism; transportation; construction and housing; and manufacturing.

The Competition Council will work closely with the Asia-Pacific Trade Council, which will be chaired by Arthur Hara. Within the next few weeks, two vice-chairs and additional members of the Asia-Pacific Trade Council will be announced.

Under the auspices of the Asia-Pacific Trade Council, nine regional task forces will help B.C. improve access to trade, investment and cultural opportunities in the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) community, California, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico and Taiwan. These task forces will be established in early June. The Asia-Pacific Trade Council is expected to table its preliminary report by the end of this year and will provide ongoing advice for an additional two years.

1 backgrounder(s) attached.

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