



OPINION EDITORIAL

BRITISH COLUMBIA: THE LEADER IN RED TAPE REDUCTION

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(271 words)

As the Minister Responsible for Regulatory Reform, I want to underscore our government's commitment to reducing unnecessary barriers to growth and productivity for small businesses and taxpayers across British Columbia.

Under Premier Gordon Campbell's leadership, our commitment to regulatory reform is a key element in our strategy to make British Columbia an economic and business leader – and it's working. Our goal is clear. As British Columbians continue to work together to create the best job-per-capita economy in Canada, we will continue to lead the country in regulatory reform.

Since 2001, this government has reduced the regulatory burden on British Columbians by over one-third, eliminating 40 per cent, or 153,000 regulatory requirements, leading the way in Canada.

We've been successful in reducing regulations that frustrate entrepreneurship and reduce productivity – but there is more to be done. Recently, we established a permanent small business roundtable and a provincial sales tax review. I encourage you to go to the roundtable website: www.smallbusinessroundtable.com for information on locations and contact information for making submissions through mail, fax or through the site at: roundtablesecretariat@gov.bc.ca. If you would like to make a submission to the Provincial Sales Tax Review consultation or find out about upcoming consultation locations, go to www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/pstreview for contact information, or e-mail pstreview@gov.bc.ca.

These initiatives are providing us with an opportunity to hear directly from stakeholders and listen to their ideas and concerns. We want businesses to tell us where regulatory reform initiatives will have the most impact.

I look forward to hearing from you. By all of us working together, British Columbia will continue to be an economic leader in Canada.

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