

April 28, 2006

### **B.C. - Alberta Agreement on Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility**

At our annual joint cabinet meeting with Alberta today, the provincial governments signed a groundbreaking agreement that will present enormous economic opportunities for both provinces, and will create the second largest economic region in Canada.

The *Comprehensive Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement Between British Columbia and Alberta* will give businesses and workers in both provinces seamless access to a larger range of opportunities in sectors including energy, transportation, labour mobility, business registration, and government procurement. This agreement will offer significant opportunities for many of you and I wanted to ensure you are aware of what the agreement means:

- Investment rules will be the same in both provinces;
- Business registrations in one province will be recognized the other province;
- And certified workers in many occupations will have their qualifications recognized in both B.C. and Alberta.

The agreement means B.C. and Alberta now form the second largest market in Canada with 7.5 million people. The Conference Board of Canada has estimated that eliminating non-tariff barriers between our two provinces will add \$4.8 billion to real GDP and create 78,000 new jobs in B.C. alone.

The signing of this agreement is sending a clear and powerful message that B.C. is serious about building a competitive and attractive location to invest, work and live.

Details of the agreement are available at [www.gov.bc.ca/ecdev](http://www.gov.bc.ca/ecdev)

Colin Hansen  
Minister of Economic Development  
and Minister Responsible for the Asia-Pacific Initiative and the Olympics