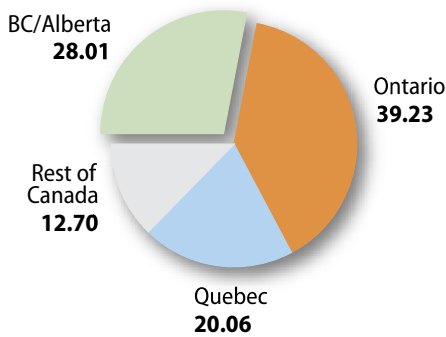


Economic Report

B.C.'s Economic Agreement with Alberta

Creating Canada's second largest economy

The British Columbia-Alberta Trade, Investment, and Labour Mobility Agreement is Canada's most comprehensive internal trade agreement. It creates a market of almost 7.7 million people and Canada's second largest economy.



GDP as % of National Total 2005

Canada needs TILMA

Non-tariff barriers are real and they do cost money. The Conference Board of Canada released a study this past May called "Death by 1,000 Paper Cuts." It provides an in-depth inventory of just a portion of the non-tariff trade barriers that exist within Canada. These barriers restrict investment, trade and the movement of workers between our own provinces. These barriers have cost billions of dollars that can now be saved, reinvested or passed on to consumers.

Enhancing our ability to compete

TILMA creates a more open, competitive economy where goods, services and investments move freely. Companies will have greater opportunities to grow at home and compete internationally. Investors, businesses, workers and consumers will benefit from the growing prosperity in Alberta and British Columbia.

Making business simpler

Under TILMA, a business established in either B.C. or Alberta will be able to operate in both jurisdictions without having to register as an outside company. This means no duplicate business registration; no duplicate annual reports, no double notifications of changes such as new Boards of Directors. All these duplicate procedures, and associated costs, will be eliminated.

What's included in the TILMA?

The TILMA applies to all measures by all government and regulatory bodies that affect trade, investment and labour mobility; it is based on a principle of non-discrimination between the two provinces. What this means is professionals will be able to practice in both provinces, businesses will only need to be registered in one province, investment rules will be the same in each province, standards and regulations will be reconciled, transportation will be streamlined and workers certified for an occupation will have their qualifications recognized in both provinces.

When does the TILMA come into effect?

The TILMA takes effect on April 1, 2007 with a two year transitional period for certain provisions. For example, the Agreement will not apply to municipalities until April 1, 2009. For one particular measure – the Alberta requirement that an outside oil and gas enterprise maintain an office in Alberta – the transitional period is 18 months.

This Economic Report is brought to you by the Ministry of Economic Development.

Colin Hansen, Minister
November 2006
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Business Establishment

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Dispute Resolution

- ▶ Both governments and individuals can use the dispute resolution process.
- ▶ Consultations emphasize a cooperative approach to resolving disputes.
- ▶ If necessary, an arbitral panel may be established to hear the dispute and issue a binding report.
- ▶ Non-compliance can result in a fine of up to \$5 million.

Labour Mobility

- ▶ Occupational standards will be reconciled so skilled workers can seek opportunities in either province.
- ▶ More employment opportunities and greater labour mobility will attract more skilled workers.