

THE BEST PLACE ON EARTH »»
TO WORK AND INVEST



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

The Best Place on Earth

WE WANT YOUR INPUT



B.C.'s growing economy has created over 371,000 jobs since December 2001. More British Columbians are working today than ever before.

To further our economic strength, we're working to provide a continued, excellent climate for small business. Measures to cut regulation, invest in regional economic development, support leading job-creating industries and expand the labour pool will ensure B.C. businesses have the means they need to succeed.

And to give B.C. families more opportunities to pursue their dreams, we're investing in employment programs to help job-seekers, providing immigrants with literacy programs to help them maximize their skills and experience in the job market, reducing provincial income taxes and eliminating mandatory retirement.

I invite you to contact me with your ideas on how we can keep our exceptional growth in enterprise and employment among the strongest in Canada.

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Gordon Campbell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

*Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia*



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GROWING SMALL BUSINESS

- » Established permanent Small Business Roundtable as a vehicle to interact with small business in all regions of British Columbia.
- » Doubled the small business tax threshold from \$200,000 to \$400,000.
- » Cut red tape by 42.5% or over 163,000 regulations and introduced Citizen Centred Regulatory Reform (Saving Time) focusing on saving British Columbians time when accessing government services.
- » Working together with local and federal government, introduced BizPaL, an online tool enabling businesses to simply and quickly identify what federal, provincial and local government permits and licences are needed to start a business, and are rolling it out to communities throughout British Columbia.
- » Committed \$2 million to Junior Achievement to provide students from K-12 with small business education.
- » Developing a partnership with the BC Chamber of Commerce, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, Retail BC and Okanagan College for training/ educational materials to recruit, train and develop a skilled workforce.
- » Continuing our success with the Taxpayer Fairness and Service Code - now in its third edition and available in eight languages.
- » Completed phase 1 of the Provincial Sales Tax review, resulting in \$120 million being returned to British Columbians.



LOWERING TAXES FOR ALL BRITISH COLUMBIANS


Tax relief measures introduced since 2001 are putting more money in the hands of B.C. families and businesses. They include:

- » Eliminating provincial income taxes for 250,000 British Columbians through tax relief measures introduced in 2001, 2005 and 2007. Most people have seen income tax reductions of 30% to 35%, and others have seen reductions of up to 70%
- » Reducing the general corporate income tax rate to 12% from 16.5%.
- » Eliminating the general corporation capital tax to encourage new investment.


INCREASING SUPPORT FOR JOB-SEEKERS

To help British Columbians achieve greater independence while ensuring they have needed support, the Province has:

- » Provided \$70 million for employment programs this year, including \$35 million for the enhanced BC Employment Program, which helps British Columbians on income assistance find and keep jobs, and \$20 million for the new Employment Program for Persons with Disabilities.
- » Placed more than 50,000 people from these programs in jobs since 2002.
- » Invested \$1.5 million since 2006 in mentoring to support women re-entering the workforce after a long absence, or entering it for the first time.



The Province is working to lead Canada in job creation and small business growth – and to expand our pool of skilled labour to fill growing opportunities.



- » Increased the monthly amount persons with disabilities can earn in addition to their income assistance to \$500, up from \$200 in 2001.
- » Provided \$800,000 a year for three years for BladeRunners, an industry-supported, proven employment program that trains at-risk youth for construction jobs.
- » Created the 10 by 10 challenge to increase employment for persons with disabilities in B.C. by 10% by 2010.

INVESTING TO UNLEASH LOCAL ECONOMIC VISION

The Province has invested \$300 million in regional economic development trusts to be administered by community leaders for the benefit of local economies and workers.

- » As of May 2007, the Northern Trust approved 81 projects that created over 141 construction positions, injecting over \$11.6 million in wages and \$1.3 million in supplies into the northern economy.
- » In addition, an equivalent of 36 full-time jobs have been created through these projects, adding over \$1.4 million to the annual payroll in Northern B.C.
- » The Southern Interior Development Initiative and the Islands-Coastal Trust, which began accepting applications in spring 2007, will respectively commit up to \$30 million over four years and \$10 million a year for three years, to leverage new investment and economic partnerships.



STRENGTHENING TOP JOB-CREATING INDUSTRIES



The Province is supporting key industries, including:

- » Forestry, through the Forestry Revitalization Strategy, which has helped draw more than \$700 million for investment in mills.
- » Oil and gas, where investment has reached \$4.7 billion, 2.5 times what it was in 2000.
- » Mining, through the Mining Plan, which has helped increase mineral exploration by over 600% since 2001, with investment topping \$265 million in 2006.
- » Science and technology, with over \$1.5 billion invested in infrastructure, targeted tax incentives and improved access to venture capital.
- » Tourism, with more than \$60 million in new funding to help communities and the tourism industry promote B.C. to the world.

GROWING B.C.'S SKILLED LABOUR POOL

Retirement pressures and a growing economy mean over one million job openings projected in the next 12 years. However, only 650,000 young people are in our school system. To ensure B.C. has the skilled labour pool it needs in the future, the Province is:

- » Eliminating mandatory retirement Jan. 1, 2008.
- » Partnering with Alberta through the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement, so skilled workers can move between provinces more easily.



Competitive tax rates and a 40% reduction in regulatory requirements since 2001 have helped to revitalize B.C.'s resource industries and create over 371,000 new jobs.

- » Home to Canada's second-largest Provincial Nominee Program, which has brought 3,543 skilled and business immigrants and their dependents here since March 2001.
- » Investing \$43 million over two years in Welcome BC to expand English language courses and other supports to immigrants, helping them obtain well-paying jobs.
- » Helping new, highly skilled immigrants secure jobs that fully employ their abilities, knowledge and experience.
- » Providing \$295 million more over three years to enhance training and skills development and expand post-secondary education opportunities.
- » Boosting the Industry Training Authority's budget by \$33 million over three years to add 7,000 new apprenticeship spaces by 2010. The Province also created a training tax credit for apprentices and their employers.
- » Establishing a Minister's Council on Employment for Persons with Disabilities to make B.C. businesses aware of this huge pool of talented, highly skilled workers.

Supporting Senior and Immigrant Workers



B.C. is helping seniors and immigrants to fill a growing number of available jobs.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

RELATED MINISTRIES

Ministry of Advanced Education

www.gov.bc.ca/aved

Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance

www.gov.bc.ca/eia

Ministry of Economic Development

www.gov.bc.ca/ecdev

Ministry of Finance

www.gov.bc.ca/fin

Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services

www.gov.bc.ca/lcs

Ministry of Small Business and Revenue

www.gov.bc.ca/sbr

Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

www.gov.bc.ca/empr

USEFUL LINKS

Service BC (*For information on any provincial government service or program*)

Monday to Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Victoria: 250 387-6121 • Vancouver: 604 660-2421

Toll-free provincewide: 1 800 663-7867

Telephone device for the deaf (TDD)

In Vancouver: 604 775-0303

Elsewhere in B.C.: 1 800 661-8773

www.servicebc.gov.bc.ca

Employment Standards

Toll-free provincewide: 1 800 663-3316

www.labour.gov.bc.ca/esb

Your Job Search

(Resources from the Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance to help clients secure a job)

www.eia.gov.bc.ca/jobs.htm

WorkLife BC

email: info@worklifebc.ca

www.worklifebc.ca/index.cfm

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Small Business BC

(Information on starting and running a small business)

Vancouver: 604 775-5525

Toll-free provincewide: 1 800 667-2272

TTY: 711 *(long-distance charges accepted)*

www.smallbusinessbc.ca

OneStop Business Registry

(Online business registration, address changes and information)

Monday to Friday, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Victoria: 250 370-0332

Toll-free Canada-wide: 1 877 822-6727

www.bcbusinessregistry.ca

Women's Enterprise Centre

Toll-free provincewide: 1 800 643-7014

www.womensenterprise.ca

2010 Commerce Centre

(Business opportunities related to the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games)

www.2010commercecentre.com

Industry Training Authority

www.itabc.ca

Provincial Nominee Program

www.pnp.gov.bc.ca

Business Immigration

(Information for international clients wanting to immigrate to B.C. and establish a business)

www.businessimmigration.gov.bc.ca

Achieve BC

(Includes information on skills training, career planning and finding a job)

www.achievebc.ca

FrontCounter BC

Toll-free provincewide: 1 877 855-3222

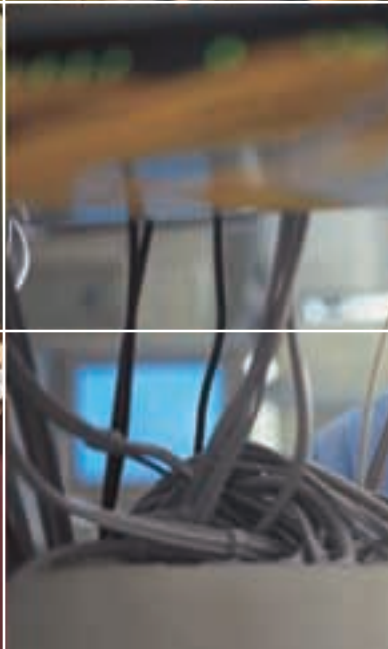
www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca

Human Resources and Social Development Canada

www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/home.shtml

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