



Economic Report

Ministry of Small Business, Technology
and Economic Development

SEPTEMBER 2008

The Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development is the primary provincial Ministry for creating a strong, prosperous and diverse economy.



Clean Tech Tax Credits

Tax credits increased to \$7.5 million for B.C. investors in early stage clean technology companies. The increase is funded through provincial government's Venture Capital Programs. [>>>Read More](#)



Employment Rates Up

British Columbia's unemployment rate dropped 0.1 percentage point to 4.4% in July. Since the beginning of the decade, total employment in B.C. has increased more than in any other province except Alberta. [>>>Read More](#)



Labour Mobility

British Columbia and Alberta have agreed to extend their Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility



Green Upgrades

Minister Ida Chong was in Nakusp B.C. to announce \$400,000 in [Towns for Tomorrow](#) funding for sustainable upgrades to the Village's ice arena. Towns for Tomorrow is a government funded program intended to address unique challenges faced by smaller communities in B.C. with respect to sustainability and infrastructure needs. [>>>Read More](#)



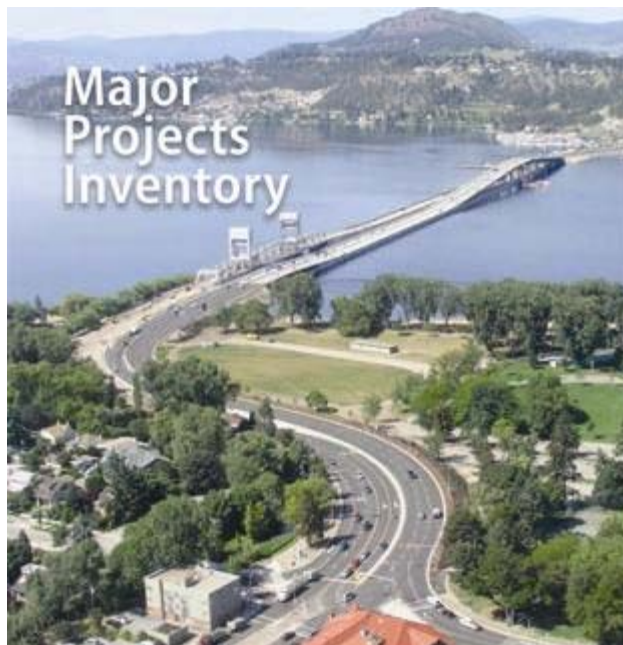
Calligraphy Collection Unveiled

Ida Chong unveiled the Gateway Calligraphy Collection at the 18th Annual PNWER Summit in Vancouver. The series is commissioned by the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada. The seven works represent the cultural, economic and political importance of the Asia Pacific Gateway. [>>>Watch Video](#)

Agreement (TILMA). The agreement covers municipalities, academic institutions, school boards, and health and social service providers (MASH). [>>>Read More](#)

Did you Know?

The Asia Pacific initiative has the potential to drive B.C.'s economy for decades, by adding \$76 billion in annual trade and creating 255,000 new jobs in B.C. by 2020.



Major Projects Inventory

The [Major Projects Inventory](#) quarterly release shows the number of major construction projects in B.C. has increased for the twentieth straight quarter. Eight hundred and sixty-three major capital projects, worth an estimated record \$169.7 billion were planned or underway in B.C. between April and June 2008.

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