



Economic Report

Ministry of Small Business, Technology
and Economic Development

OCTOBER 2008

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



Rural Clean Energy Projects

The government has added an additional \$25 million for the development of clean energy projects in British Columbia's rural communities. Funded through the [Innovative Clean Energy \(ICE\) Fund](#), the projects will help B.C. reduce its carbon footprint. [Read More>>>](#)



British Columbia's Innovation Winners

Minister Ida Chong attended the B.C. Innovation Awards Dinner to congratulate the 2008 British Columbia Innovation Council Award Winners. The annual award ceremony recognizes the best and brightest innovators in the province. [Read More>>>](#)



More Jobs For B.C.

According to Statistics Canada's September 2008 Labour Force Survey, on a year-to-date basis (Jan to September), employment in B.C. is up by 58,000 jobs over the same period last year. B.C.'s Y-T-D employment growth rate is the second highest in Canada after Alberta (2.9%) and above the national average of (1.8%).

Canada's
Pacific Gateway

Multilingual Website Promotes B.C.

The government launched a newly redesigned multilingual website for people who are interested in investment, trade, immigration, education or travel in British Columbia. [Read More>>>](#)

Did You Know?

Since 2001, 430,600 new jobs have been created in the province, 92 per cent of those were full time.



Research, Technology and Innovation

The Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development is now responsible for Research, Technology and Innovation. These areas of focus will play a major role in shaping British Columbia's future social and economic development, and in enhancing the province's domestic and international competitiveness. [Read More>>>](#)

Did You Know?

B.C.'s clean tech industry is the 3rd largest in the world by size and value – behind only California and Germany.



International Linear Accelerator Conference

Minister Ida Chong and 400 hundred accelerator physicist and industry representatives from around the world gathered in Victoria B.C. to take part in LINAC 08. The bi-annual conference is a forum for the Linear Accelerator community to discuss the latest accelerator technologies being pursued around the world. This year's conference was hosted by TRIUMF, Canada's national laboratory for particle and nuclear physics.

[Read More>>>](#)



UBCM 2008 Annual Convention

Minister Ida Chong was joined by Minister of State for Intergovernmental Relations Joan McIntyre and Olympic and Paralympic games Mascot Sumi, to celebrate the grand opening of the BC Pavilion at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities 2008 Annual Convention in Penticton B.C.

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NEWS RELEASE

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Office of the Premier
Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development

FURTHER \$25M DEDICATED TO RURAL CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS

VANCOUVER – The Province will provide a further \$25 million to develop innovative, clean energy projects in British Columbia’s rural communities through the Innovative Clean Energy (ICE) Fund, Premier Gordon Campbell announced today.

“The innovative clean energy projects supported through the ICE Fund are helping communities save energy, save money and reduce their carbon footprint,” said Premier Campbell. “In addition to supporting local energy-efficiency, the new technology developed can be commercialized, helping build B.C.’s green technology sector, and seizing the opportunities of the growing low-carbon economy.”

In July, the provincial government announced the first 15 successful applicants to receive support from the ICE Fund. Approved projects representing bio-energy, geothermal, solar and other alternative energy sources shared nearly \$25 million from the Province, representing about \$80 million in total investment.

“We are concentrating this second round of ICE Fund projects on rural B.C. because we want to maximize the opportunity for residents across the province to benefit from locally-produced clean energy, generated by innovative technologies,” Technology, Trade and Economic Development Minister Ida Chong said. “All British Columbians, including residents in our many smaller communities, want to help achieve a sustainable and prosperous future for our province – so we are ensuring that the ICE Fund supports local economies in the province’s rural regions.”

This second round of ICE Fund projects will see approximately \$25 million in funding to address specific B.C. energy and environmental priorities, as well as accelerating the commercialization of clean energy technologies.

Eligible proposals are welcome from anywhere in British Columbia, but the projects must be situated within the Northern Development Initiative Trust Region, the Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust Region, and North Island-Coast Development Initiative Trust Region. However, all off-grid or unincorporated communities in B.C. are eligible to host ICE Fund projects.

The ICE Fund is open to applications from municipalities, regional districts, school boards, hospitals, First Nations, Not-for-profit societies, post secondary institutions, Crown corporations, public utilities and companies.

Supporting the BC Energy Plan and the government’s goal of electricity self-sufficiency by 2016 and cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 33 per cent by 2020, the ICE Fund will showcase B.C. technologies to the world and drive solutions to climate change.

For more information on the Province’s Innovative Clean Energy (ICE) Fund, including details on community eligibility and application requirements, please visit the website at:
http://www.gov.bc.ca/tted/popt/innovative_clean_energy_fund.html/.

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