

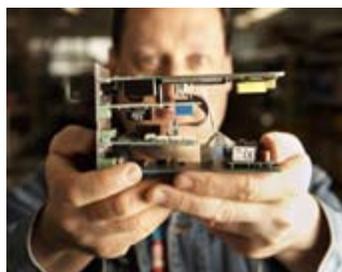


Economic Report

Ministry of Small Business, Technology
and Economic Development

NOVEMBER 2008

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



Research, Technology and Innovation

As an essential part of the ministry's Research, Technology and Innovation portfolio, the [Leading Edge Endowment Fund](#) is helping Promote economic growth and job creation and strengthen B.C.'s position as a centre of excellence in research.

Did You Know?

The 2008/09 Provincial budget has committed \$40 million, over the next three years, to strengthen B.C.'s trade, investment and cultural links with Asian countries.



Management Accountants Agree To Labour Mobility

Minister Ida Chong announced a joint Labour Mobility agreement between the members of the Society of Management Accountants of British Columbia and the Society of Management Accountants of Alberta.

[Read More >>>](#)

Venture Tax Credits

Companies registered with the



October 16, 2008 – Honourable Ida Chong, Minister of Technology, Trade and Economic Development and Jack Peake, Cowichan Valley Mayor and Regional District Chair

Historic Kinsol Trestle Saved

Minister Ida Chong met with members of local first nations, the Kinsol Trestle's preservation society, local MLA's and excited on lookers, for the restoration announcement of the Kinsol Trestle and Cowichan Valley Trail. Minister Chong spoke about the economic significance in the preservation of such an historic site for Vancouver Island. The province provided \$3.1 million to restore the trestle and build a new deck for cyclists and pedestrians.



October 22, 2008 – left to right: Ralph Nilson, President Vancouver Island University; Nicole Vaugeois, Regional Innovation Chair, Tourism & Sustainable Rural Development; Premier Gordon Campbell, Chief Shawn Atleo, Chancellor VIU & B.C. Regional Chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

Provincial Government's [venture capital programs](#), will now receive their tax credit certificates quicker than ever, thanks to a new web-based system. [Read More>>>](#)

B.C. India Partnership Seeks R&D Projects

British Columbia and India have developed a joint initiative to promote research and development in environmental technologies and life science. The new program is looking for research and development projects from British Columbia and Indian biotechnology research organizations and companies. [Read More>>>](#)

Did You Know?

British Columbia led all provinces in interprovincial migration in 2007. B.C. attracted nearly 13,400 people, a 31 per cent increase over 2006 – the first time in over a decade that a province other than Alberta has led the country.

Tourism Chair To Boost Economic Benefits For Rural Communities

The Province has provided \$1.25 million from the Leading Edge Endowment Fund for the B.C. Regional Innovation Chair in Tourism and Sustainable Rural Development at Vancouver Island University. The chair will help rural B.C. communities capitalize on their natural assets by providing resources for tourism development. [Read More>>>](#)



October 14, 2008 – left to right: Kyung Suk Kim, Manager, Trade and Investment Representative Office; Soo Kyung Ahn, Senior Manager, Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Division; Jue Jung Huh and In Jun Paek, Korea Trade and Investment Representative Office

B.C. Green Energy Companies Shine in Korea

All eyes were on British Columbia at ENTECH 2008, Korea's premiere renewable energy trade show. A province-led delegation of seven B.C.-based companies showcased British Columbia's green energy industry to the Asia-Pacific market. The Province's Trade and Investment Representative Office in Korea supported the B.C. companies attending ENTECH 2008. [Read More>>>](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2008TTED0039-001509
Oct. 3, 2008

Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANTS AGREE TO LABOUR MOBILITY

VICTORIA – The Society of Management Accountants of British Columbia (CMABC) and the Society of Management Accountants of Alberta (CMA-Alberta) have agreed to labour mobility for their members in compliance with the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA) between British Columbia and Alberta, Technology, Trade and Economic Development Minister Ida Chong announced today.

“By supporting freer labour mobility between British Columbia and Alberta, the organizations representing certified management accountants in both provinces have broadened the professional horizons of their respective memberships,” said Chong. “Greater mobility, based on mutual recognition of qualifications, will create more economic opportunities for CMAs and better service for their clients on both sides of the border.”

“With full labour mobility under the TILMA, certified management accountants in Alberta and British Columbia will have more choice and greater access to a wider range of clients,” said Ron Stevens, Alberta Deputy Premier and Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations. “In turn, consumers will be able to find the accountant that best meets their needs.”

Signed in April, 2006, the TILMA strives to reduce and eliminate barriers to the free movement of workers, goods, services and investments. The TILMA will take full effect in April 2009. Canada’s most comprehensive inter-provincial trade agreement, the TILMA creates a market of almost 7.8 million people – the nation’s second largest economy.

“By reaching this labour mobility agreement with CMA-Alberta, over 4,300 certified management accountants (CMAs) in B.C., and in particular our members in public practice, can now work in both provinces without having to complete additional regulatory registrations and paperwork,” said Colin Bennett, CMABC president and CEO. “This agreement expands our members’ professional reach and opens up employment opportunities for B.C. CMAs.”

“CMA-Alberta is very pleased to have been part of this landmark agreement. Removing artificial barriers to labour mobility is important to our membership and to the overall future economic success of Alberta and B.C.,” said Joy Thomas, president and CEO of CMA-Alberta.

More information on the TILMA is available at www.tilma.ca and on the Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development’s website at www.gov.bc.ca/tted.

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2008TTED0040-001538
Oct. 10, 2008

Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development

ACCESS TO VENTURE TAX CREDITS ACCELERATED

VICTORIA – By helping companies registered with the provincial government’s venture capital programs to provide tax credit certificates quickly and efficiently, the Province is taking another step to encourage innovation and reward investors in B.C.’s dynamic small business sector, Technology, Trade and Economic Development Minister Ida Chong announced today.

“Venture capital keeps British Columbia’s vibrant technology companies competitive and strong,” said Chong. “The Province has already streamlined its processes to reduce the amount of time that clients registered in these programs spend filling out and completing forms. Now the ministry has introduced a web-based system that will simplify and speed up the process of applying for and distributing the tax credit certificates, making it easier for eligible investors to claim their 30 per cent tax credit.”

The electronic Tax Credit Application (eTCA) is a system that allows eligible companies to submit investment data to the provincial government on-line and retrieve tax credit certificates quickly for their investors.

“The introduction of this new on-line system will not only reduce the administrative burden for technology companies, but also accelerate the process and shorten the time to access money, which is often critical,” said Pascal Spothelfer, president of the BC Technology Industry Association.

Before eTCA, companies sent their investor information to the British Columbia Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development’s Investment Capital Branch in Victoria. Ministry staff entered the information into a computer system, then printed and mailed the tax credit certificates to individual investors. Now companies can submit data on their capital investment intake to government and get back tax credit verification electronically right away for their investors, saving time and processing costs.

The Province provides a 30 per cent tax credit to British Columbia residents when they purchase shares directly in a venture capital corporation or eligible business corporation registered with the provincial government.

Eligible British Columbia businesses have enjoyed steady success in raising venture capital: \$18 million in 2004, \$22 million in 2005, \$43 million in 2006, \$80 million in 2007 and an anticipated \$83 million for 2008. These investments help employ British Columbians and enable B.C. companies to thrive and grow, providing critically important seed capital for emerging small businesses across the province.

Venture capital companies and eligible business corporations must be registered with the provincial government in order to utilize eTCA to serve their investors.

More information on the investment capital programs is available on the Ministry of Technology, Trade and

Economic Development's website at www.gov.bc.ca/ecdev

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2008OTP0258-001601
Oct. 22, 2008

Office of the Premier
Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development
Vancouver Island University

TOURISM CHAIR BOOSTS RURAL BENEFITS FROM OLYMPIC GAMES

NANAIMO – A regional innovation chair at Vancouver Island University to support tourism in rural B.C. will provide the knowledge to increase the benefits of the 2010 Winter Games in smaller communities and help them expand their economic base, Premier Gordon Campbell said today.

“Rural B.C. communities enjoy some of the most spectacular surroundings in the world, and this chair will help them capitalize on their natural assets by providing resources to guide tourism development,” said Premier Campbell. “We’re looking forward to showcasing rural B.C. to the tourists who will discover our beautiful province through the Olympic Games, and who will return to visit us time and again.”

The Province provided \$1.25 million from the Leading Edge Endowment Fund to endow the B.C. Regional Innovation Chair in Tourism and Sustainable Rural Development. Matching funding has been raised by Vancouver Island University, with \$250,000 contributed by the B.C. Real Estate Foundation.

“Research and innovation provide a foundation for strong and vibrant local economies, which is one of the reasons we’ve invested more than \$1.7 billion in research over the past seven years,” said Ida Chong, Minister of Technology, Trade and Economic Development. “By funding this chair we are helping the tourism industry meet the government’s goal to double revenues by 2015, and will provide the support for rural communities to be part of this growth.”

The chair is held by Nicole Vaugeois, who has a PhD in tourism planning and development from Michigan State University, and has worked with regional and community tourism organizations on Vancouver Island to identify opportunities to expand tourism in the region.

“The untapped opportunities in our region are significant, and I applaud our government’s support of rural tourism in B.C. and in particular, on Vancouver Island,” said Vaugeois. “I am looking forward to collaborating on quality initiatives that will support the regional economic and social development of the communities we serve.”

The chair will be part of the faculty of management at Vancouver Island University, and its research program will include developing and delivering customized management training, help regions and communities with their planning needs, and promote long-term opportunities resulting from the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games.

“This chair and the funding to support it fit very well with VIU’s role in economic development,” said Ralph Nilson, president of Vancouver Island University. “VIU is committed to working with business to strengthen research and development. Nicole has an exceptional background in economic development and tourism, and she is a strong leader. We are very pleased to have her play this role on our behalf.”

The \$56.25-million Leading Edge Endowment Fund is establishing nine regional innovation chairs, along with

20 research leadership chairs to help attract top researchers to B.C., and to retain them. Institutions provide matching funds secured from outside partners.

This is the province's fourth B.C. regional innovation chair. Regional innovation chairs have three main goals:

- To support applied research, development and innovation that will bolster regional economic and social development in all areas of the province.
- To attract highly qualified people in areas relevant to regional social and economic development.
- To support collaboration between post-secondary institutions and their regional communities.

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2008TTED0041-001544
Oct. 10, 2008

Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development

B.C.-INDIA PARTNERSHIP SEEKS R&D PROJECTS

VICTORIA – British Columbia’s collaborative program with India, promoting research and development in environmental technologies and life sciences, is seeking expressions of interest from British Columbian and Indian biotechnology research organizations and companies, announced Ida Chong, Minister of Technology, Trade and Economic Development.

“In June, B.C. announced this joint initiative with India and I’m very pleased to see this program is moving forward so quickly,” said Chong, who is also the Minister responsible for the Asia-Pacific Initiative. “British Columbia is very proud of the cultural and economic ties we have already developed with India, our Asia-Pacific partner. I hope many B.C.-based companies will take advantage of our program and develop their own relationships in India.”

British Columbia and India both committed \$1 million to create the program. The objective of the program is to fund collaborative research and development projects with commercial potential between British Columbian and Indian companies.

The joint funding also supports internships for students and researchers who will work in the other jurisdiction on research and development projects.

International Science and Technology Partnerships Canada (ISTPCanada), a federally mandated, not-for-profit organization is overseeing the expressions of interest process and will also contribute to successful projects involving B.C. and India.

Parties have until Oct. 24, 2008 to submit expressions of interest in the fields of convergent medical technologies, clean biotechnology, health and biopharma. All expressions must involve a Canadian and Indian company, details on how the project will benefit Canada and India and proof the party can complete the project and handle future commercialization.

More detailed information is available on ISTPCanada’s website, www.istpcanada.ca.

The B.C.-India partnership mirrors a bi-lateral science and technology initiative between Canada and India. While all Canadian companies and institutions are eligible to receive funding through the federal program, only B.C.-based organizations will be able to access grants from the British Columbia-specific program.

Since June 2001, British Columbia has committed over \$1.7 billion to research in B.C., and has leveraged more than \$1 billion in added research funding from other sources.

Provincially supported research, innovation and technology provide a long-term foundation for a strong and vibrant economy, a sustainable environment and safe, healthy communities, both within British Columbia and worldwide.

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2008TTED0042-001659
Nov. 4, 2008

Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development

B.C. GREEN ENERGY COMPANIES SHINE IN KOREA

VICTORIA – A Province-led delegation of B.C.-based renewable energy companies were the “stars of the show” at ENTECH 2008, Korea’s premier environment and renewable energy technology trade show, said Technology, Trade and Economic Development Minister Ida Chong today.

“British Columbia is home to some of the world’s leading green and renewable energy companies and our government is helping them access global markets,” said Chong, who is also Minister responsible for the Asia-Pacific Initiative. “Korea, like the entire Asia-Pacific region, is actively seeking clean and non-traditional technology to power its economy. The success at ENTECH demonstrates that B.C. companies are making strong in-roads into Asia.”

Korea is British Columbia’s fourth-largest trading partner with bi-lateral trade totalling approximately \$4 billion in 2007.

The B.C. delegation at ENTECH included Alterna Energy Inc., Ballard Power Systems, CB Williams Energy Group, Lignol Energy Corp., Dynamotive Energy Systems, QuestAir Technologies Inc. and 4 Refuel International. British Columbia’s delegation represented the largest non-Korean presence.

“CB Williams was very pleased with what we were able to accomplish in Korea,” said William Choi, CEO of CB Williams Energy Group, who was a keynote speaker at ENTECH’s Investment Promotion Forum. “ENTECH allowed us to connect with potential international customers and gave us opportunities to export our clean energy technology.”

A seminar about British Columbia was attended by representatives from approximately 50 private sector companies. In addition, B.C.’s presence was covered by Korean media including Energy Times magazine, Korea Oil and Gas magazine, Energy Today newspaper and KBS, a major television station.

“Our presence at British Columbia’s ENTECH pavilion gave Ballard a great opportunity to showcase hydrogen fuel cell technology in the Korean market,” said Terry Howe, a market manager with Ballard Power Systems. “Ballard looks forward to increasing our presence in key Asian markets, including Korea, through participation in future British Columbia delegations.”

ENTECH 2008 (Environmental and Energy Tech 2008) took place on Oct. 14 to 17 in Busan, South Korea’s second-largest city. Approximately 230 companies participated and some 25,000 people attended the trade show.

British Columbia’s attendance at ENTECH 2008 was organized by the Province’s Trade and Investment Representative Office in Korea. Opened in May by Premier Gordon Campbell, the office helps B.C.-based companies connect with potential Korean partners, promotes B.C. as an investment destination, encourages collaboration in research and development and showcases provincial products, resources and services.

B.C.'s Korea Trade and Investment office will also lead a delegation of five B.C.-based companies and organizations at the upcoming GSTAR2008 gaming show in Ilsan, Korea. GSTAR is a key event in one of the world's most important games markets. Running from November 13 to 16, GSTAR2008 will be held at the Korea International Exhibition Centre (KINTEX) located in Ilsan, Gyeonggi-do, British Columbia's Korean sister province. This show is expected to attract 1,000 journalists, 2,000 industry buyers, 160,000 visitors and 160 industry companies.

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