



Economic Report

Ministry of Small Business, Technology
and Economic Development

Summer 2008

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



National Labour Mobility

A national agreement on labour mobility across Canada was announced at the Council of Federation meeting in Quebec. These amendments will result in mutual recognition of occupational credentials between all provinces and territories. [Read More>>>](#)



Labour Mobility

The Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors and the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association signed a mutual recognition agreement to comply with the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA) between British Columbia and Alberta. [Read More >>>](#)

Minister's Message



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce my self as the new Minister of Technology, Trade and Economic Development and the Minister Responsible for the Asia Pacific Initiative.

The Ministry has changed its name to "Technology, Trade and Economic Development," the new name reflects the Ministries renewed focus towards the economy. It is a very exciting time for British Columbia, with a booming economy and the Olympics on the horizon; British Columbia's future has never looked brighter. I am committed towards strengthening our economy, promoting investment and showcasing B.C. as an ideal location for economic development.

Until next month,
sincerely,
Honourable, Ida Chong, FCGA
Minister of Technology, Trade and Economic Development
and the Minister Responsible for the Asia Pacific Initiative

[link to Minister's site](#)



Clean Energy Funding

Minister Ida Chong and Energy, Mines and Petroleum



India Calling

B.C. offers significant opportunities for Indian businesses looking to build on their presence in the North American market. India Calling is a unique opportunity for businesses from India and B.C. to explore economic opportunities and form strategic business partnerships.

Did You Know

Our Ministry offers three key programs to help small business gain access to capital. They offer tax credits to investors so that small businesses may continue to lead the economic future of British Columbia. [Read More>>>](#)

Resources Minister Richard Neufeld visited the University of Northern British Columbia to announce the 15 successful [Innovative Clean Energy \(ICE\) Fund](#) project applicants. The \$25-million ICE Fund helps position British Columbia as a world leader in alternative energy and power technology. [Read More>>>](#)



Olympic Live Site Ceremony

Minister Ida Chong and Minister Murray Coell unveiled the Olympic Hall of Fame to honour provincial athletes at the Save-On-Foods Memorial Center in Victoria. The event marked the completion of the improvements made to the Save-On-Foods Memorial Center and upgrades to the Royal Athletic Park. [Read More >>>](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2008OTP0184-001122
July 18, 2008

Office of the Premier

PREMIER CAMPBELL APPLAUDS LABOUR MOBILITY AGREEMENT

QUÉBEC – A national agreement on labour mobility announced today by Canada’s premiers is an important step forward in ensuring all Canadians have the right to live and work anywhere in the country, said Premier Gordon Campbell.

“I’m very pleased with the commitment of all premiers to move forward and work towards achieving full labour mobility across Canada,” said Premier Campbell. “British Columbia and Alberta have long been advocating for Canadians and their families to have the right of free movement across the country as an integral part of citizenship. Currently, B.C. and Alberta are the only jurisdictions where this right exists, and this agreement is a critical step in extending this right to all Canadians in all parts of Canada.”

At the Council of Federation meeting in Québec City, Québec, the premiers agreed to amend the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) by Jan. 1, 2009. These amendments will provide that any worker certified for an occupation by a regulatory authority of one province or territory shall be recognized as qualified to practice that occupation by all other provinces and territories. The premiers also directed that any exceptions to full labour-market mobility will have to be clearly identified and justified as necessary to meet a legitimate objective such as the protection of public health or safety.

By the 2009 summer meeting of the Council of the Federation, these amendments will result in mutual recognition of occupational credentials between all provinces and territories.

B.C. and Alberta were the first jurisdictions in Canada to introduce full labour mobility under the Trade and Labour Mobility Agreement. TILMA creates a market of more than 7.7 million people and the nation’s second-largest economy.

“Under the new amendments, individuals will be able to take full advantage of their talents and education by having the freedom to seek the best opportunities for themselves and their families where they exist,” said Premier Campbell.

The premiers also announced an enhanced and effective dispute resolution mechanism to enforce AIT dispute panel recommendations for government-to-government disputes. Effective Jan. 1, 2009, the strengthened mechanism includes the use of monetary penalties to a maximum of \$5 million.

“The dispute resolution mechanism is an important part of ensuring full mobility, and gives weight to the shared commitment to labour mobility,” said Premier Campbell.

During the Council of Federation meeting, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty announced the province’s decision to join the Western Climate Initiative (WCI), which is creating a regional cap-and-trade system. The addition of Ontario means WCI partners now account for over 82 million people with a collective GDP of \$3.6 trillion CAD.

“The WCI now represents 73 per cent of Canada’s economy, and 20 per cent of the U.S. economy. Ontario’s engagement in this partnership demonstrates their commitment to combating climate change and their recognition of the role regional partnerships will play in that,” said Premier Campbell.

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2008ECD0026-000829
May 29, 2008

Ministry of Economic Development

LAND SURVEYORS AGREE ON LABOUR MOBILITY

VICTORIA – The Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors (ABCLS) and the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association (ALSA) have signed a mutual recognition agreement to comply with the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA) between British Columbia and Alberta, Economic Development Minister Colin Hansen said today.

“These two professional organizations have taken a major step forward, enabling their respective memberships to enjoy the benefits of unencumbered labour mobility between B.C. and Alberta,” Hansen said. “The land surveyors in both provinces join a growing list of professions and occupations aligning themselves with the TILMA to maximize their participation in the flourishing economies of British Columbia and Alberta.”

Alberta's Deputy Premier and Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations, Ron Stevens, agreed. “Today's announcement is another indication of the tremendous progress being made to improve labour mobility between Alberta and British Columbia,” Stevens said. “Both associations deserve credit for working collaboratively to increase opportunities for their members and consumers in both provinces.”

Signed in April, 2006, the TILMA strives to reduce and eliminate barriers to the free movement of workers, goods, services and investments. The TILMA came into force on April 1, 2007. Canada's most comprehensive inter-provincial trade agreement, the TILMA creates a market of more than 7.7 million people – the nation's second-largest economy.

“B.C. land surveyors wanted to access a wider spectrum of opportunities for employment and professional development,” said ABCLS registrar Chuck Salmon. “The labour mobility agreement with our Alberta colleagues, operating under the umbrella of the TILMA, creates new and exciting choices for our members.”

“This agreement between our two associations will benefit the public and the economy by creating a significantly larger pool of land surveying companies and land surveyors across both provinces,” said ALSA president Ron Hall. “The agreement is fully in keeping with the spirit of the TILMA, because it's all about enhancing possibilities for mutual economic prosperity.”

More information on the TILMA is available at www.tilma.ca and on the Ministry of Economic Development's website at www.gov.bc.ca/ecdev.

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[Printer-friendly version](#) Backgrounder(s) & FactSheet(s): [Backgrounder](#) [Backgrounder](#)

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2008TTED0032-001114
July 18, 2008

Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development
Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

15 PROJECTS HIGHLIGHT B.C.'S CLEAN ENERGY INNOVATION

VICTORIA – The Province is funding a suite of innovative clean energy projects throughout B.C., investing \$25 million from the government’s Innovative Clean Energy (ICE) Fund, announced Technology, Trade and Economic Development Minister Ida Chong and Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Minister Richard Neufeld today.

“Clean energy will play a key role in building a vibrant and prosperous green economy in British Columbia,” Chong said. “These investments demonstrate our commitment to develop innovative technology that will result in new sources of abundant, clean energy serving the needs of local communities and residents across the province.”

“We’re building on B.C.’s proven track record in bringing innovation to the energy sector by funding these 15 projects,” said Neufeld. “By delivering on this BC Energy Plan commitment, we’re leading the effort to meet our ambitious greenhouse gas emission reduction and clean energy targets.”

Applications to the fund came from across British Columbia, representing a broad range of technologies and sectors, including bioenergy, geothermal, solar and other alternative energy sources. Projects selected address specific B.C. energy and environmental priorities identified by the government and will accelerate the commercialization of these clean technologies.

Successful applicants, focusing on bio-energy, solar, geothermal and other alternative energy approaches include a diversity of organizations and projects from:

- UNBC – Prince George
- Alterna Energy – Prince George
- Metro Vancouver – Lower Mainland
- SunSelect Produce – Aldergrove
- Lignol Innovations – Burnaby
- Nexterra Energy Corp. – New Westminster
- Catalyst Power – Abbotsford
- SBC Firemaster – Revelstoke
- UBC – Burnaby
- MSR Innovations – Langley
- T’Sou-Ke First Nation – Sooke
- BCIT – Burnaby
- Fairfield Propagators – Chilliwack
- Terasen Gas – Vancouver
- Halfway Ranch – Kamloops

The \$25-million ICE Fund helps position British Columbia as a world leader in alternative energy and power technology by showcasing B.C. technologies to the world and fostering solutions to climate change. It is designed to accelerate the commercialization of new, clean and renewable energy technologies.

The ICE Fund supports the BC Energy Plan and government's goal of electricity self-sufficiency by 2016 and cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 33 per cent by 2020.

The fund will be continued, and a second call for applications with a focus on rural B.C. is expected in the fall of 2008. Applicants unsuccessful in the first round are encouraged to reapply with funding decisions expected in early 2009.

For more information on the Province's Innovative Clean Energy (ICE) Fund, please visit the website at: www.gov.bc.ca/empr/popt/innovative_clean_energy_fund.html

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2 backgrounder(s) attached.

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BACKGROUND

2008TTED0032-001114
July 18, 2008

Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development
Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

\$25 MILLION FOR CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS

The ICE Fund is leveraging total project value of nearly \$80 million. The breakdown of the approved funding to the 15 projects is as follows:

Organization: Community	ICE Fund Investment	Project Description	Total Project Value
Bio-energy			
UNBC Prince George	\$3.5 million	Gasification project using mountain pine beetle biomass.	\$12.86 million
Alterna Energy Prince George	\$2.69 million	Bio-carbon production plant that will convert wood residues into thermal energy and bio-carbon.	\$8.16 million
Metro Vancouver Lower Mainland	\$3 million	Production of electricity from wastewater sludge at the Lulu Island wastewater treatment plant.	\$9 million
Sun Select Produce Aldergrove	\$2.24 million	Wood waste energy and CO2 recovery plant utilizing carbon dioxide capture technology.	\$6.69 million
Lignol Innovations Burnaby	\$1.96 million	Biorefinery to process mountain pine beetle infested fibre and other B.C. feedstocks for the production of cellulosic ethanol.	\$5.88 million
Nexterra Energy Corporation New Westminster	\$1.5 million	Direct-fired boiler biomass gasification system at tissue mill.	\$9 million
Catalyst Power Abbotsford	\$1.5 million	Anaerobic digestion system for agricultural sector.	\$4.5 million
SBC Firemaster Revelstoke	\$750,000	Modular woody fibre pellet plant.	\$2.57 million
Solar energy			
UBC Burnaby	\$2 million	Solar Canopy Illumination System to reduce lighting requirements and energy costs.	\$6.36 million
MSR Innovations Langley	\$520,000	SolTrak- Solar Roofing System to construct the first full scale assembly site followed by commercial deployment in Langley.	\$1.57 million
T'Sou-Ke First Nation	\$400,000	Solar photovoltaic project of 75KW for installation on their territory.	\$900,000

Sooke			
Other Alternative Energy			
BCIT Burnaby	\$2.69 million	Intelligent micro-grid to facilitate the commercialization of innovative and cost-effective technologies and solutions for a smart electricity grid system.	\$6.54 million
Fairfield Propagators Chilliwack	\$1.26 million	Geothermal project to provide winter heating and summer cooling at a Chilliwack greenhouse facility.	\$3.38 million
Terasen Gas Vancouver	\$370,000	Advanced gas purification system to recover pipeline-grade methane from the Lions Gate Wastewater Treatment Plant.	\$1.12 million
Halfway Ranch Kamloops	\$40,000	Micro-Hydro Generating Plant to generate electricity from hydraulic head in an irrigation system connected to the grid.	\$200,000

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BACKGROUND

2008TTED0032-001114
July 18, 2008

Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development
Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

APPROVED INNOVATIVE CLEAN ENERGY FUND PROJECTS

Biomass Gasification Project at University of Northern British Columbia
Prince George
ICE Fund \$3.5 million

UNBC is proposing to work with Nexterra Energy Corporation to implement a system to gasify mountain pine beetle infested biomass, producing heat to fire a boiler at the power plant on campus to heat university buildings. This showcase project, the first of its kind at a Canadian university, will be a catalyst for replication, research and economic development. Biomass gasification could displace up to 80 per cent of the fossil fuel currently used to heat buildings on the UNBC campus.

Enviro-Carbonizer – Scale-up to Production Plant Level
Prince George
ICE Fund \$2.69 million

Alternia Energy Inc. will build a plant in Prince George to produce bio-carbon (charcoal), and usable thermal energy from a wide variety of forest wastes and mountain pine beetle infested biomass. Converting 180,000 tonnes of biomass annually, the plant is modular and scaleable, making replication a viable option in small and rural communities. Alternia is striving to eventually use different in-feed materials, such as municipal waste and scrap tires, to fuel the plant.

BC BioEnergy from BioGas Project
Vancouver
ICE Fund \$3 million

The project will result in electricity production at Metro Vancouver's Lulu Island wastewater treatment plant in Richmond. Paradigm Environmental Technologies Inc. developed a made-in-B.C. MicroSludge process, which works with the co-generation equipment at Lulu Island to turn wastewater sludge into a clean, renewable source of electricity. Metro Vancouver will be the economic beneficiary of the project.

Greenhouse Wood-Fired Heat and CO2 Recovery Plant
Aldergrove – Lower Mainland
ICE Fund \$2.24 million

SunSelect Produce (Delta) Inc. will develop, construct and operate a wood waste energy plant to power a 14 MW wood fired boiler and also capture carbon dioxide. The project will provide heat and carbon dioxide to operate an existing 160,000 square meter modern glass greenhouse owned and operated by SunSelect Produce. The wood waste energy plant will produce clean energy from a renewable fuel source and operate with 20 per cent more efficiency than existing wood waste plants.

Cellulosic Ethanol Production
Burnaby
ICE Fund \$1.96 million

Lignol Innovations will produce cellulose ethanol from mountain pine beetle infested fibre and other feedstocks from British Columbia. The Lignol process is widely regarded as one of the most promising cellulosic ethanol solutions under development.

Direct-Fired Boiler Biomass Gasification Demonstration Project

New Westminster

ICE Fund \$1.5 million

Nexterra Energy Corporation will work with FP Innovations and Kruger Products Ltd. to apply its biomass gasification technology for industrial use. The consortium will demonstrate a direct-fired biomass gasification system (turning forest/wood waste into gas to produce heat) for use at the Kruger tissue mill in New Westminster. ICE Fund support will help achieve replication and commercialization of the process.

Advanced High Yield Biogas System

Abbotsford

ICE Fund \$1.5 million

Catalyst Power Inc.'s project will result in a high yield biogas system, providing the first Anaerobic Digester (AD) built in British Columbia to serve the Fraser Valley agricultural community. The project represents an economic and environmentally sustainable way to utilize agricultural waste. As research partner in the project, the University of British Columbia has developed a process for extracting nutrients and producing energy from agricultural waste. Fertilizer mixes are among the useful agricultural by-products of the process.

Bee-Hive Burner Replacement and BioEnergy Creation Project

Revelstoke

ICE Fund \$750,000

The project will provide a modular pellet plant at Kozek Sawmill, designed by project proponent SBC Firemaster Ltd. to handle many different sorts of fibre, including lower quality material, such as tree bark. The energy produced by the plant will provide Revelstoke General Hospital and Revelstoke Mountain Resort with clean, carbon neutral renewable energy. The project also allows the shutdown of a local beehive burner.

Solar Canopy Illumination System Demonstration Project

Burnaby

ICE Fund \$2 million

The University of British Columbia's Solar Canopy Illumination System provides daylight to the interior of multi-floor office buildings, either by design in new buildings or by retrofitting existing structures. The system reduces the need for electric lighting, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions. By producing a variety of demonstration installations, the project will showcase how the technology applies in different types of buildings in various geographical locations, for the benefit of architects, engineers and lighting specialists. The Solar Canopy Illumination System can reduce energy requirements for a standard commercial building by at least 25 per cent. About half of the 10 million square meters of office space in British Columbia is appropriate for a Solar Canopy installation.

SolTrak – Solar Roofing System

Langley

ICE Fund \$520,000

MSR Innovations developed a modular solar roofing system called SolTrak that uses a unique tile and track system for installation. ICE Fund support allows the first construction of public demonstration sites for the solar photovoltaic system incorporated into the roof tiles. The demonstration sites will allow data collection and analysis to support large-scale manufacturing and assembly of the system.

Solar Photovoltaic Innovation and Demonstration Project

T'Sou-Ke First Nation, Sooke

ICE Fund \$400,000

Support from the ICE Fund will help T'Sou-Ke First Nation, on Vancouver Island west of Victoria, to build a 75 KW photovoltaic (PV) installation on their territory to generate solar power. It will be the largest grid-connected operating PV energy system in British Columbia and it will meet the First Nation's objective of becoming a sustainable solar community. The demonstration project will compare technology, costs and environmental impact with hydro and diesel-generated power. Resulting energy savings will contribute to the T'Sou-Ke First Nation plans to build a second solar power generating unit. Within a year of receiving ICE Fund financial support, T'Sou-Ke First Nation will hold a Solar Community Forum for all off-grid First Nations in British Columbia.

Development of an Intelligent Micro-Grid at BCIT**Burnaby****ICE Fund \$2.69 million**

The British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) will design and develop an intelligent electricity grid system. The grid will allow for testing of communication technologies, smart metering, smart appliances, and co-generation (thermal, turbine, wind and solar). As a testing bed, the grid will support commercialization and use of technologies to help meet British Columbia's electricity needs and priorities. BCIT's new Centre for Applied Research and Innovation (CARI) will implement the project.

Fairfield Propagators Ltd. Geothermal Energy System**Chilliwack****ICE Fund \$1.26 million**

A 12-acre greenhouse facility in Chilliwack will be the site of a unique demonstration project promoting the use of geothermal energy systems (GES). Known as Fairfield Propagators Ltd., the facility is the largest lily and chrysanthemum grower in the province. It uses natural gas and electricity for winter heating and summer cooling, which generates about 2,900 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions. The project will replace the current heating/cooling system with an open-loop geothermal energy heat pump system, using ground water at different temperatures to either heat or cool the buildings, minimizing GHG emissions and providing lower-cost energy. The project includes a demonstration component – the Geothermal Technology-Transfer Centre in order to showcase the process for greenhouse growers, businesses and institutions.

Lions Gate Wastewater Treatment Plant BioGas Upgrading Project**Vancouver****ICE Fund \$370,000**

Terasen Gas Inc. will use QuestAir's advanced gas purification system to recover pipeline-grade methane (biomethane) from Metro Vancouver's Lions Gate Wastewater Treatment Plant. Currently the biogas produced at the plant is flared. The project will showcase the technology used to produce biomethane from wastewater, so it can be applied to other biogas upgrade projects in the municipal waste and agricultural sectors.

Halfway Ranch Micro-Hydro Generating Plant**Kamloops****ICE Fund \$40,000**

The project at Halfway Ranch, west of Kamloops between Lytton and Lillooet, converts the energy of water moving through an irrigation system into hydro electricity that can be connected to the BC Hydro grid. The ICE Fund supports construction of a powerhouse using two pumps as turbines to generate a maximum of 25 KW of electricity. A maximum of 25 KW of power will be produced. After generating electricity, the water is used to irrigate over 80 hectares of farmland.

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