



Economic Report

Ministry of Small Business, Technology
and Economic Development

JANUARY 2009

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



Gassing Up With Alternative Fuel

Minister Ida Chong fills up a hydrogen powered vehicle with Chris Sacré, president of Sacré-Davey Engineering and MLA Katherine Whittred, during a tour of the Sacré-Davey hydrogen fuelling station in North Vancouver. The December 15 tour was hosted by [Hydrogen & Fuel Cells Canada](#), which works to accelerate Canada's world-leading hydrogen and fuel cell industry. Fuel Cell Vehicles (FCVs) produce no tailpipe emissions. Hydrogen can also be used as a fuel component in conventional internal combustion engines.



With the assistance of science facilitator Brian Anderson, Taylor Smith, a Grade 7 student at Renfrew elementary school and Minister Chong took part in a science experiment to demonstrate the potential of hydrogen as an energy source to power vehicles that produce no carbon emissions.

Province Provides \$10.5M For Science World BC Upgrades

On December 8, 2008, Minister Ida Chong visited Science World BC to announce a \$10.5-million investment from the Province. The funds will support much-needed upgrades to Science World and the development of an outdoor science park. [Read more>>](#)

B.C. Economic Summits

Building on the Government's commitment to strengthen our economy, two economic summits are being planned early in 2009. Opportunities North: The Northern Economic Summit (Prince George, Jan. 22-23, 2009); and the British Columbia Economic Summit (Vancouver, Feb. 3-4, 2009) are unique forums that will bring together business, government and community leaders to highlight the choices, challenges and economic potentials. [Register today>>](#)

Labour Mobility For All Canadians

Canadians now have full labour mobility between provinces, thanks to the recent changes to the Agreement on Internal



Bioeconomy Reception

On December 11, 2008 Minister Ida Chong was joined by BC Hydro chair Mossadiq Umedaly and Ian Thompson, President of Canada Bioenergy at the British Columbia Innovation Council (BCIC) and LifeSciences BC bioeconomy reception in Victoria. Minister Chong spoke about the Province's support for bioenergy and biotechnology. The [British Columbia Innovation Council](#) is the lead organization charged by the Province to advance innovation and commercialization in British Columbia.



December 8, 2008 – left to Right: Lily Wang, Vancouver Regional Head of Asia Pacific Client Service Group of Borden Ladner Gervais LLP; Ken Tung, Ex-Officio Director and Immediate Past Chairman of S.U.C.C.E.S.S.; Lydia Law, Director of Marketing of Coast Capital Savings Credit Union; Honourable Ida Chong and Bill Lau, President of HKCBA Vancouver and Partner of KPMG LLP.

Building Relationships with the Asia Pacific Regions

Minister Ida Chong was in Vancouver to deliver a keynote address on the Asia Pacific Initiative to

Trade approved by Canada's trade ministers. Under new labour mobility provisions that become effective April 1, 2009, people with a specific professional or occupational certification in one province or territory will be recognized as qualified to practise their profession in all provinces and territories where their profession or occupation is regulated.

[Read More >>](#)

Did You Know?

- Hydrogen is the earth's cleanest and most abundant fuel and energy source.
- Hydrogen can be extracted from feedstock including water, fossil fuels, methanol and other petrochemicals.
- Hydrogen can be produced using renewable resources such as solar, wind, hydroelectricity and biomass.
- Canadian companies are recognized worldwide for fuel cell and hydrogen energy systems design and manufacturing excellence.

[The Hong Kong Canada Business](#)

[Association](#). Minister Chong discussed the importance of British Columbia's relationship with the Asia Pacific region as Canada's Pacific Gateway. HKCBA encourages two-way trade between Canada and Hong Kong and provides a forum for discussion of trade issues involving Hong Kong and Canada. [View more photos from the luncheon.](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2008TTED0052-001839
Dec. 8, 2008

Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development

GOVERNMENT PROVIDES \$10.5M FOR SCIENCE WORLD BC RENEWAL

VANCOUVER – A \$10.5-million investment by the Province will help Science World BC undergo much-needed upgrades and develop an outdoor science park, Ida Chong, Minister of Technology, Trade and Economic Development, announced today.

“Science World BC plays an important educational role in our communities, and it is a symbol of British Columbia’s leadership in science, technology and innovation,” Chong said. “This funding will help ensure Science World can continue to spread enthusiasm for science and technology to children and adults around the province.”

Science World BC opened in 1989 and attracts more than 525,000 visitors annually. The building, erected for Expo 86, was not designed or built for permanent operations. The facility needs upgrades to its building systems, including envelope, foundations and structure, to remain usable on an ongoing basis.

“We are proud of our efforts to inspire a science and technology culture in British Columbia, and this funding will help protect our unique iconic building,” said Bryan Tisdall, president and CEO of Science World. “We are really looking forward to creating our outdoor science park. It’s going to make learning about environmental sustainability exciting and meaningful for our visitors – and it will include our trademark engaging and hands-on approach to discovering science.”

Science World aims to use the 7,803-square-metre park to explore themes of science and sustainability – such as clean energy, earth science and water stewardship – making them relevant and meaningful for the community.

In addition to its programs in Vancouver, Science World BC also offers a variety of outreach programs that bring science into classrooms and communities, addressing everything from climate change and environmental action to the human body. These programs reach more than 180,000 children, educators and parents throughout the province.

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2008OTP0284-001841
Dec. 5, 2008

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

AGREEMENT EXTENDS FULL LABOUR MOBILITY ACROSS CANADA

VICTORIA – Full labour mobility between provinces was confirmed today by agreement among Canada’s labour and trade ministers, breaking down economic barriers and allowing Canadians and their families to move freely throughout the country, Premier Gordon Campbell said today.

“Freeing up the enormous talent and enterprise of British Columbians and all Canadians by maximizing labour mobility is critical to building our economic strength, particularly during challenging economic times,” Premier Campbell said. “Full labour mobility will allow Canadians to move freely, taking advantage of job opportunities, and helps address long-term skilled worker shortages, such as we will face in B.C. This is an important step forward, and we need to continue to work on removing similar barriers to trade and investment, so we have full trade and labour mobility across the country.”

Negotiated as part of Canada’s Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT), the new labour mobility provisions require that, effective April 1, 2009, people with a specific professional or occupational certification in one province or territory will be recognized as qualified to practise their profession in all provinces and territories where their profession or occupation is regulated.

The agreement was approved today by the Committee on Internal Trade (CIT), which is made up of federal, provincial and territorial internal trade ministers. It honours a commitment made by Canada’s premiers last July to achieve full labour mobility for Canadians.

“This agreement will give Canadians the freedom to put their education and skills to work wherever they choose and wherever those opportunities exist,” said Minister of Technology, Trade and Economic Development Ida Chong. “That’s why we signed the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA) with Alberta, which continues to serve as an inspiration for full labour mobility and freer trade on the national level.”

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