



# Economic Report

Ministry of Small Business, Technology  
and Economic Development

## FEBRUARY 2009

*The Ministry of Small Business, Technology 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.*

### A New Name and New Responsibilities

On Jan. 19, 2009, the provincial cabinet was reorganized to help manage the present economic challenges. One of the results was a new Ministry of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development led by Minister Ida Chong.

[Read More>>>](#)



### Good News For B.C.'s Innovators

The Province has doubled the maximum [venture capital](#) companies can invest in British Columbia small businesses from \$5 million to \$10 million. This will help innovative companies create more jobs and opportunities in British Columbia.



### Sustainable Cattle Ranching

British Columbia and Thompson Rivers University are working together to help B.C. cattle ranchers improve profitability, protect grasslands and endangered species, and reduce greenhouse gases.

[Read More>>>](#)



*Jan. 22, 2009 – Ida Chong, Minister of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development and Minister Responsible for the Asia-Pacific Initiative, and Dr. Charles Jago, Interim President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Northern British Columbia*

### British Columbia Economic Summits

Minister Ida Chong attended the British Columbia Economic Summits in Prince George on Jan. 22-23 and Vancouver on Feb. 3-4, 2009. Each two-day summit was a forum for participants to share their ideas for the future and priorities of British Columbia's economy. The two summits drew a combined crowd of over 1,200 delegates, including a broad cross-section of business, industry and community leaders. Both summits were extremely well received.



### Economic Development Agreement

On Jan. 19, 2009, Minister Ida Chong and Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for [Western Economic Diversification](#), formalized a new Canada-British Columbia Western Economic Partnership Agreement.

## Did You Know?

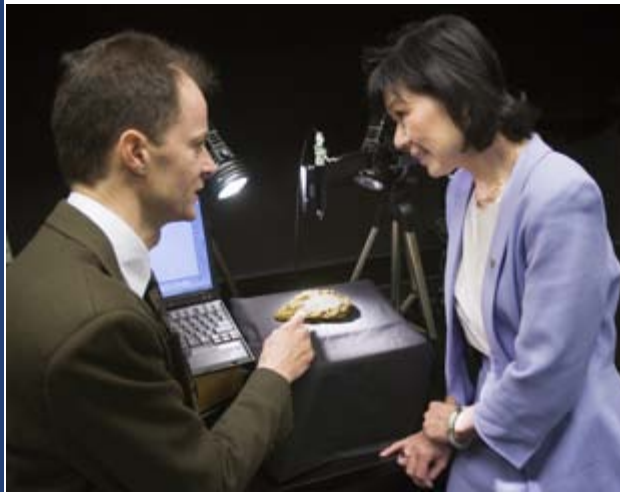
- B.C.'s total farm receipts from cattle and calf production amount to over \$250 million a year.
- Over half the cattle in B.C. are raised in the central Interior by small-scale operations with herds of less than 100 animals.



### Blusson Spinal Cord Centre

Jan. 14, 2009 – Minister Ida Chong was joined by Rick Hansen and Dr. John Steeves, Director of the International Collaboration on Repair Discoveries and Leading Edge Endowment Fund B.C. Leadership Chair in Spinal Cord Research, for a tour of the state-of-the-art facilities at the Blusson Spinal Cord Centre, the world's largest, most advanced and most comprehensive facility devoted to spinal cord injury research and patient care. The centre opened in November 2008. The Province provided \$12.9 million for the centre through its [B.C. Knowledge Development Fund](#).

Through WEPA, \$50 million is being provided to support priority and long-term economic development projects across the province over the next five years. [Read More >>>](#)



Jan. 19, 2009 - Ida Chong, Minister of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development, watches Dr. Benoit Rivard demonstrate the use of reflected light to identify minerals and rocks in his University of Victoria research laboratory.

### Shedding Light

British Columbia is working with the University of Victoria to find new ways to use data collected by sensors in planes and satellites to protect and manage natural resources. Funding from the Leading Edge Endowment Fund is supporting the world-class research that will be used for purposes ranging from detecting insect infestations in forests to locating promising mineral deposits and measuring the effects of climate change. [Read More >>>](#)



Jan. 12, 2009 – Ida Chong, Minister of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development, was joined by (from left) Ken Goosen, president of AeroInfo Systems; Linda Reid, MLA for Richmond East; and Jim Brookes, president of ACCELERATE BC.

### Aerospace Research Partnership

Under a partnership funded by the Province and Boeing Canada Operations Ltd., students from the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University will take part in 100 internships over the next five years with Boeing's Richmond-based AeroInfo Systems division, using a new multi-disciplinary field called visual analytics. [Read](#)

[More>>>](#)

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Backgrounder(s) & FactSheet(s): [Backgrounder](#) [Backgrounder](#)



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2009OTP0007-000068  
Jan. 19, 2009

Office of the Premier

### **PREMIER REALIGNS CABINET TO MEET ECONOMIC CHALLENGES**

VICTORIA – Premier Gordon Campbell today announced the appointment of Blair Lekstrom as Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and the appointment of Kevin Krueger as the new Minister of Community Development. The provincial cabinet has also been realigned, creating a new Ministry of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development to be led by Minister Ida Chong.

Previous functions under the Ministry of Small Business and Revenue, such as tax collection, natural resource revenues, and collection and loan management, will be folded into the Ministry of Finance. The Small Business Roundtable and smart regulation will now fall under Small Business, Technology and Economic Development. Property assessments and homeowner grants will move to the Ministry of Community Development. Climate action has been moved from the Office of the Premier to the Ministry of Environment. There are also a number of changes to the senior executive of the BC Public Service.

“We are going through a period of unprecedented economic change, and government is not immune to that change,” said Premier Campbell. “Today is another part of our ongoing response to those shifts – both by ensuring we continue to have strong leadership in our economic ministries, and also by reducing the size of cabinet.”

Ida Chong was appointed Minister of Technology, Trade and Economic Development and Minister Responsible for the Asia-Pacific Initiative on June 23, 2008. She previously served as Minister of Community Services, Minister of Advanced Education and as Minister of State for Women’s and Seniors’ Services. She was re-elected as MLA for Oak Bay-Gordon Head in 2005 after being elected in 1996 and re-elected in 2001.

Kevin Krueger was appointed Minister of Small Business and Revenue and Minister Responsible for Regulatory Reform on June 23, 2008. He previously served as Minister of State for Mining. He was re-elected as MLA for Kamloops-North Thompson in 2005 after being elected in 1996 and re-elected in 2001.

Blair Lekstrom was appointed Minister of Community Development on June 23, 2008. He was first elected in the 2001 provincial general election in the riding of Peace River South, and was re-elected for a second term in the 2005 general election.

“I want to thank Richard Neufeld for his years of exceptional service as part of the provincial cabinet, and for his 18 years of dedicated service representing his constituents as MLA. I know he will continue to be a strong voice for British Columbia as a member of the Senate,” said Premier Campbell. “I also want to thank Ministers Chong, Krueger and Lekstrom for accepting their new roles and helping to lead British Columbia forward.”

2 backgrounder(s) attached.

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## BACKGROUNDER

2009OTP0007-000068

Jan. 19, 2009

Office of the Premier

### SENIOR PUBLIC SERVICE EXECUTIVE LIST

The following public sector senior executive changes have been made:

**Lorne Brownsey**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts

**Dave Byng**, Chief Operating Officer, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

**John Dyble**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests and Range

**Don Fast**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development

**Bob de Faye**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

**Doug Konkin**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment (also responsible for climate action)

**Peter Milburn**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

**Philip Steenkamp**, President and CEO, Olympic Games Secretariat, Ministry of Finance

**Lynda Tarras**, Head, Public Service Agency, Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development

**Graham Whitmarsh**, interim Associate Deputy Minister, Revenue, until March 31 and, effective April 1, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance

Senior public service executive responsibilities unchanged include:

**Jessica McDonald**, Deputy Minister to the Premier and Cabinet Secretary

**Steve Carr**, Associate Deputy Minister, Integrated Land Management Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

**Robin Ciceri**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development

**Lesley du Toit**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Children and Family Development

**James Gorman**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education

**Beth James**, Head, Capital Planning Secretariat, Ministry of Finance

**Robin Junger**, Associate Deputy Minister, Environmental Assessment Office, Ministry of Environment

- Rob Lapper**, Associate Deputy Minister, Intergovernmental Relations and Cabinet Operations, Office of the Premier
- Gord Macatee**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health Services
- Cairine MacDonald**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Housing and Social Development
- Grant Main**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport
- David Morhart**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
- Ron Norman**, Head of Communications, Public Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Finance
- Larry Pedersen**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
- Greg Reimer**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
- Allan Seckel**, Deputy Attorney General, Ministry of Attorney General
- Wes Shoemaker**, Associate Deputy Minister, Emergency Management BC, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
- Paul Straszak**, Associate Deputy Minister, Labour, Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services
- Chris Trumpy**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance
- Dale Wall**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Community Development
- Lori Wanamaker**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services

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## BACKGROUND

2009OTP0007-000068

Jan. 19, 2009

Office of the Premier

### **SUMMARY OF MINISTRY RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **OFFICE OF THE PREMIER**

##### **Minister of State for Intergovernmental Relations**

###### **General Responsibilities**

Cabinet operations

Corporate planning

Strategic policy and legislative priorities

Intergovernmental relations

#### **MINISTRY OF ABORIGINAL RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION**

###### **General Responsibilities**

Aboriginal policy and coordination

Treaty negotiations

Consultation and accommodation policy

First Citizens' Fund

###### **Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions**

BC Treaty Commission

First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council

Native Economic Development Advisory Board

#### **MINISTRY OF ADVANCED EDUCATION AND LABOUR MARKET DEVELOPMENT**

###### **General Responsibilities**

Post-secondary financing

Post-secondary policy and accountability

Student financial assistance

Immigration policy

Labour market policy and strategy

Provincial Nominee Program

Work BC

BladeRunners

Industry training

Public Service Agency

Public Sector Employers' Council Secretariat

###### **Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions**



## SUMMARY OF MINISTRY RESPONSIBILITIES

Universities, Colleges and Institutes  
BC College and Institute Boards  
University Boards of Governors  
Private Career Training Institutions Agency  
British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfers  
Degree Quality Assessment Board  
Industry Training Authority  
BC Pension Corporation

## **MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LANDS**

### **General Responsibilities**

Agriculture, aquaculture and food industry development  
Animal health and crop protection  
Food safety and quality  
Commercial fisheries and fish processing  
Aquaculture licensing and regulation  
Allocation of Crown land  
Soil management  
Weed control  
Crop insurance  
Integrated Land Management Bureau:  
- Land use planning  
- Land Info BC  
- Aboriginal consultation coordination  
- Single point of contact service

### **Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions**

BC Farm Industry Review Board  
Agriculture Land Commission  
BC Wine Institute  
Muskwa Kechika Advisory Board

## **MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL (Minister responsible For Multiculturalism)**

### **General Responsibilities**

Criminal justice and family law  
Administrative law policy  
Court administration  
Legal aid and public legal education  
Alternate dispute resolution  
Family maintenance  
Legal services to government  
Multiculturalism services

### **Major Boards and Commissions**

BC Human Rights Tribunal  
BC Law Institute  
BC Review Board  
BC Utilities Commission  
Multicultural Advisory Council  
Legal Services Society

## **MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT**

### **Minister of State for Childcare**

#### **General Responsibilities**

Adoption and reunion services  
Child protection and family development  
Foster care  
Childcare  
Children and youth with special needs  
Child and Youth Mental Health  
Youth justice programs

#### **Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions**

Board of Registration for Social Workers  
Provincial Childcare Council

## **MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

#### **General Responsibilities**

Community Charter  
Local government  
Vancouver Urban Development Agreement  
University Endowment Lands  
Community adjustment  
Community Development Trust  
Regional economic and rural development  
Mountain Pine Beetle  
Property Assessment

#### **Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions**

Board of Examiners  
BC Assessment Authority  
Property Assessment Appeal Board  
Islands Trust Fund Board  
Columbia Basin Trust  
Northern Development Initiative Trust  
North Island-Coast Development Initiative Trust  
Southern Interior Development Trust  
Nechako-Kitimaat Development Fund Society  
BC-Alcan Northern Development Fund

## **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

### **(Minister Responsible for Early Learning and Literacy)**

#### **General Responsibilities**

K-12 standards and accountability  
K-12 funding  
Independent schools  
Community schools  
Action Schools! BC programs  
Early childhood development  
Literacy

Libraries  
Early Learning Agency  
StrongStart BC Centres

**Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions**

Education Advisory Council  
College of Teachers  
Learning Roundtable

**MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES**

**Minister of State for Mining**

**General Responsibilities**

Energy policy, including electricity and alternative energy  
Power technology development  
Mines and minerals development  
Geological Survey Branch  
Oil and gas development  
Offshore oil and gas development  
Mines inspection

**Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions**

Oil and Gas Commission  
BC Hydro  
Columbia Power Corporation  
BC Transmission Corporation  
Assayers Certification Board of Examiners  
Mediation and Arbitration Board

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**

**(Minister responsible for Climate Action)**

**General Responsibilities**

Parks, wilderness and protected areas  
Air, land and water pollution prevention and waste management  
Fish and wildlife habitat and species protection  
Species at Risk Coordination Office  
Compliance and enforcement  
Water quality  
Water allocation  
Drought management  
Dam and dyke safety and regulation  
Flood plain management  
Ocean management strategy  
Watershed restoration  
Environmental emergencies  
Conservation Officer Service  
Climate Action Secretariat  
Environmental Assessment Office  
State of Environment Reporting

**Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions**

Environmental Appeal Board

## **MINISTRY OF FINANCE**

**(Minister responsible for the Olympics)**

### **General Responsibilities**

Treasury Board  
Office of the Comptroller General  
Provincial treasury  
Economic and financial analysis  
Financial institutions regulation  
Fiscal planning, tax policy  
Business and personal property registries services  
Tax collection including property, income and consumer  
Forestry, mines, oil and gas revenue  
Collection and loan management  
Homeowner Grants  
BC Olympic Games Secretariat  
Capital Planning Secretariat  
Crown Agencies Secretariat  
Board Resourcing and Development Office  
Public Affairs Bureau

### **Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions**

Financial Institutions Commission  
Insurance Council of BC  
Partnerships BC  
Real Estate Council  
BC Securities Commission  
Mineral Tax Review Board

## **MINISTRY OF FORESTS AND RANGE**

### **General Responsibilities**

Forest stewardship and timber supply  
Forest protection – pests and fire  
Compliance and enforcement  
Forest investment  
Timber pricing and sales  
BC Timber Sales  
Grazing and range stewardship

### **Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions**

Forest Appeals Commission  
Forest Practices Board  
Forestry Innovation Investments Ltd.  
Timber Export Advisory Committee

## **MINISTRY OF HEALTH SERVICES**

### **General Responsibilities**

Leadership and support for the health service delivery system  
Performance management of the health authorities  
Health human resource planning

## SUMMARY OF MINISTRY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Health regulation and licensing
- Health information systems and e-health
- End of life and palliative care
- Community and home support services
- Mental health and addictions services
- BC Nurseline
- BC Bedline
- Medical Services Plan
- PharmaCare
- BC Ambulance Service
- Vital Statistics

### **Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions**

- Health Authorities
- Medical Services Commission
- Medical and Health Care Services Appeal Board
- BC Patient Safety & Quality Council
- Hospital Appeal Board

## **MINISTRY OF HEALTHY LIVING AND SPORT**

### **General Responsibilities**

- Health promotion and protection
- Aboriginal health promotion
- Public health planning
- Provincial Health Officer
- Provincial Nutritionist
- Women and seniors
- Assisted living and residential care
- Community Care licensing
- Communicable diseases prevention and addictions services promotion
- Healthy living/chronic disease prevention
- Water and air monitoring and reporting
- Sports and recreation
- Dial-a-Dietitian
- ActNow BC

### **Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions**

- Community Care Facility Appeal Board
- BC Games Society

## **MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **General Responsibilities**

- Housing and homeless policy
- Building policy
- Safety standards and inspections
- Landlord-tenant dispute resolution
- Income assistance
- Disability assistance
- Employment programs
- Labour market development programs
- Provincial Disability Strategy
- Adult community living services

Transition houses  
Mental health and addictions services coordination  
Volunteer and non-profit support  
Liquor control and licensing  
Liquor Distribution Branch  
Gaming policy  
Responsible Gambling Strategy  
Community gaming grants

**Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions**

BC Lottery Corporation  
BC Housing Management Commission  
Community Living BC  
Building Code Appeal Board  
Building Policy Advisory Committee  
Homeowner Protection Office  
Safety Standards Appeal Board  
Safety Authority of BC  
Provincial Rental Housing Commission  
Employment and Assistance Appeal Tribunal

**MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND CITIZENS' SERVICES**

**General Responsibilities**

Citizen service delivery  
- Government agents  
- BC Stats  
- BC Online  
- Online Channel Office  
- BC Bid  
- Enquiry BC  
Accommodation and Real Estate Services  
Workplace Technology Services  
Queen's Printer  
Alternative Service Delivery Secretariat  
Chief Information Officer  
Information and privacy  
Labour relations  
Employment standards  
Occupational health and safety  
Workers' Compensation Act

**Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions**

BC Labour Relations Board  
Workers' Compensation Appeal Tribunal  
Employment Standards Tribunal

**MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL**

**General Responsibilities**

Police and correctional services  
Provincial emergency management  
Emergency social services

Crime prevention programs  
Criminal record check and protection order registry  
Victim assistance  
Consumer services  
Gaming enforcement  
Superintendent of Motor Vehicles  
Office of the Fire Commissioner

**Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions**

Police Boards  
BC Parole Board  
Insurance Corporation of British Columbia  
BC Coroners Service

**MINISTRY OF SMALL BUSINESS, TECHNOLOGY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
(Minister responsible for the Asia Pacific Initiative)**

**General Responsibilities**

Economic development policy  
International and internal trade policy  
Export market development  
Business climate  
Small Business Roundtable  
Smart regulation  
BC Venture Capital Program  
Innovation and technology  
Low carbon economy  
International Financial Centre  
Innovative Clean Energy Fund  
Trade, Investment, and Labour Mobility Agreement  
BC Trade Commission, Education and Skills Development  
Canada-BC Business Service Centre

**Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions**

Leading Edge Endowment Fund Board  
Asia-Pacific Trade Council  
BC Innovation Council  
Premier's Technology Council

**MINISTRY OF TOURISM, CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

**General Responsibilities**

Tourism strategy  
Aboriginal tourism  
Heritage conservation  
Archaeology  
Recreation sites and trails  
Recreational fish and wildlife recreation promotion  
Public back-country recreation  
Commercial recreation policy  
Resorts and alpine ski developments  
Film policy and classification  
Arts and culture programs

**Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions**

Tourism BC  
Provincial Capital Commission  
BC Arts Council  
Royal BC Museum Corporation  
BC Pavilion Corporation

**MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**General Responsibilities**

Transportation planning and policy  
Highway construction and maintenance  
Commercial vehicle safety and inspections  
Port and airport development  
Infrastructure grants

**Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions**

BC Rail  
Passenger Transportation Board  
BC Transit  
BC Transportation Financing Authority  
Rapid Transit 2000 Project

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**Note: The online version of this backgrounder was revised on Feb. 19, 2009.**

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2009TTED0003-000036  
Jan. 14, 2009

Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development  
Thompson Rivers University

### **NEW RESEARCH CHAIR WILL SUPPORT CATTLE INDUSTRY**

KAMLOOPS – The Province and Thompson Rivers University are working together to help B.C. cattle ranchers improve profitability, protect grasslands and endangered species, and reduce greenhouse gases, Ida Chong, Minister of Technology, Trade and Economic Development, announced today.

John Church, who has a PhD in rangeland and wildlife resources, has been appointed B.C. Regional Innovation Chair in Cattle Industry Sustainability. His job will be to develop new techniques and technologies to help make B.C.'s cattle industry sustainable – both economically and environmentally.

“This \$250-million industry is vital to B.C.’s rural economy,” said Chong, who is also responsible for research and innovation. “By funding this chair, government and industry have partnered with TRU to support ranchers with innovations that will ‘beef up’ profits while caring for our province’s sensitive grassland areas and helping to fight climate change.”

Church will lead a multidisciplinary research team at TRU, working closely with industry through a steering committee. Church is particularly interested in developing feeding strategies to increase health-giving Omega 3 oils in beef, and to reduce the amount of methane – a greenhouse gas up to 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide – produced by cattle.

“Sustainable cattle ranching involves grazing practices that uphold the ecological integrity of the grasslands on which these operations depend,” said Church. “The cattle industry and the land will continue to flourish for future generations only through encouraging stewardship activities, information exchanges and partnerships that support the ranching practices that are so economically and socially important for Kamloops and our province.”

The Province provided \$1.25 million for the chair through the Leading Edge Endowment Fund. Matching funding includes \$625,000 from the Cattle Industry Development Council and \$250,000 from the Real Estate Foundation of B.C.

“TRU is located in the heart of the beautiful B.C. Interior where ranching and related industries have historically been central to the culture and economy of our region,” said Kathleen Scherf, president of Thompson Rivers University. “With this chair, and building on the expertise of our faculty and research facilities, TRU establishes itself as a world-class centre of excellence in integrated research and development related to sustainable rangelands, ranching, meat production and value-added meat products.”

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 keep them here. Institutions provide matching funds secured from outside partners.

“The cattle industry in B.C. is an important part of our heritage and our current agricultural landscape,” said

Stan Hagen, Minister of Agriculture and Lands. “The creation of this regional position is a proactive step to ensure that cattle ranching is also a part of B.C.’s future.”

This is the province’s fifth B.C. regional innovation chair. The endowment fund has already supported regional innovation chairs in rural economic development, Selkirk College; Aboriginal early childhood development, Vancouver Island University; sport technology, Camosun College; and tourism and sustainable rural development, Vancouver Island University.

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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Canada



NEWS RELEASE  
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For Immediate Release  
2009TTED0004-000051  
Jan. 19, 2009

Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development  
Western Economic Diversification Canada

## **CANADA, B.C. SIGN \$50-MILLION ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP**

VANCOUVER – Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification, and Ida Chong, B.C. Minister of Technology, Trade and Economic Development, today signed a new Canada-British Columbia Western Economic Partnership Agreement (WEPA) that will invest a total of \$50 million towards supporting long-term economic growth and competitiveness in British Columbia.

“This new agreement with the Province of British Columbia demonstrates the Government of Canada’s commitment to support economic opportunities that ensure Canada’s continued success in this time of global economic uncertainty,” said Yelich. “Today’s investment is the first in a series of four agreements being announced across the West this week, all of which will not just meet the challenges of today but will build a dynamic western Canadian economy that will create opportunities and better jobs for Canadians in the future.”

“This partnership will help B.C. sustain economic momentum through support for both emerging and traditional industries,” said Chong. “At a time when capital markets are tight, it is important that federal and provincial governments are working together to grow emerging knowledge-based industries, enhance productivity, improve trade and investment and promote regional economic diversification.”

The Western Economic Partnership Agreement (WEPA) will be funded by \$25 million each from the B.C. government and Western Economic Diversification Canada. British Columbia has participated in two previous WEPA partnerships with the federal government to support economic development projects. The current WEPA agreement is focused on job creation, business productivity and competitiveness, fostering a low carbon economy and generating regional economic development.

WEPA projects will reinforce B.C.’s economic strengths in knowledge-based businesses and technological innovation, and assist resource industries to cope with global economic change. Projects funded through WEPA will help British Columbia organizations to research and develop clean energy and environmental technologies, accelerate investment attraction to B.C. and support the success of new products and processes.

First Nations and communities in B.C.’s various regions will also benefit through projects aimed at diversifying their local economies. These initiatives will help them face challenges such as the downturn in resource-based industries. The \$25-million federal contribution for British Columbia is part of a \$100-million Government of Canada investment in the West through the Western Economic Partnership Agreements.

Western Economic Diversification Canada, in partnership with the provinces, industry associations and communities, promotes the development and diversification of the western economy, coordinates federal economic activities in the West and represents the interests of western Canadians in national decision-making.

1 backgrounder(s) attached.

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## BACKGROUND

2009TTED0004-000051

Jan. 19, 2009

Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development

Western Economic Diversification Canada

### **CANADA-BRITISH COLUMBIA WESTERN ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (WEPA)**

#### **Western Economic Partnership Agreements**

Western Economic Partnership Agreements (WEPAs) are multi-year federal-provincial funding commitments to strengthen economic activity and improve quality of life in western Canadian communities. Through the agreements, Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) and each western province provide a matching contribution, enabling significant investments to fund projects that support federal and provincial priorities.

The new series of agreements, will allocate \$25 million in funding for each of the western provinces. Funding will be matched by the provincial governments for a total investment of \$200 million. This will build on the success of previous WEPAs, which invested \$180 million in the shared economic priorities of the federal and provincial governments. A recent evaluation of the prior agreements, which expired on March 31, 2008, found they have effectively advanced innovative projects and leveraged significant additional financial investment from non-government sources.

#### **In British Columbia**

In British Columbia, Western Economic Diversification Canada will provide \$25 million in funding and the Province of British Columbia will provide a matching contribution, enabling investments totalling up to \$50 million. Western Economic Diversification Canada and the Ministry of Technology, Trade, and Economic Development will jointly administer the Canada-British Columbia WEPA, to be delivered over five years.

The purpose of the Canada-British Columbia WEPA is to:

- a) provide a mechanism for achieving greater federal-provincial co-operation in realizing the economic and regional development potential of the Province of British Columbia by way of collaboration; and
- b) target the joint strategic priorities whereby Canada and British Columbia will work together and with other interested stakeholders to help create innovative, entrepreneurial and sustainable communities.

#### **Canada-British Columbia Joint WEPA Priorities**

- Support the creation and growth of knowledge-based research and development and business clusters, along with the commercialization of new products, technologies and services.
- Support trade and investment.
- Have western Canadian business, industry and research organizations working together to enhance business productivity and competitiveness.
- Increase value-added production in traditional industries.
- Promote economic diversification through initiatives such as removing trade and labour-mobility barriers.
- Increase First Nations participation in regional/provincial economies.

For more information about the Canada-British Columbia WEPA, please visit the program website at:

<http://www.wd.gc.ca/eng/297.asp>

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2009TTED0005-000063  
Jan. 20, 2009

Ministry of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development  
University of Victoria

### **UNIQUE RESEARCH CHAIR SHEDS LIGHT ON EARTH'S SURFACE**

VICTORIA – The Province is partnering with the University of Victoria to find new ways to use data collected by sensors in planes and satellites to protect and manage natural resources, Ida Chong, Minister of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development, announced today.

Geologist Benoit Rivard, former director of the Centre for Earth Observation Science at the University of Alberta, has been appointed B.C. Leadership Chair in Hyperspectral Remote Sensing. It is the first chair in this field in Canada.

“Our Leading Edge Endowment Fund is supporting world-class research at UVic that will be used for purposes ranging from detecting insect infestations in forests to locating promising mineral deposits and measuring the effects of climate change,” said Chong, who is responsible for research. “Benoit Rivard is working with space-age technology to unlock the secrets of our Earth’s surface. His work is key to B.C.’s leadership in this field.”

Hyperspectral imaging collects and measures both visible light reflected from surface features like rocks, trees and water, as well as the nonvisible energy they emit. Rivard is a leader in interpreting hyperspectral data and has special expertise in geological remote sensing.

“Dr. Rivard’s appointment builds on UVic’s already considerable strengths in hyperspectral remote sensing,” said UVic president David Turpin. “Thanks to the Leading Edge Endowment Fund and the generosity of matching donors, Dr. Rivard and his program will be a provincial focal point for research on the application of hyperspectral imaging technology to B.C.’s natural resource challenges and opportunities.”

Rivard is working with government, industry and other university researchers to develop new hyperspectral techniques for resource exploration and environmental monitoring. He is also developing methods to find early signs of such pests as the mountain pine beetle.

“Once the trees show signs visible to our eyes, the beetles have already moved on,” Rivard said. “To take action, we need to detect an infestation while the trees are still green. This is one of many resource management areas where hyperspectral imaging has great potential.”

The Province provided \$2.25 million to endow the chair permanently through its \$56.25-million Leading Edge Endowment Fund, established in 2002. The provincial contribution was matched by funds from UVic and the University of Victoria Foundation.

“I know that Benoit Rivard will be a great asset as a new B.C. leadership chair,” said Murray Coell, Minister of

Advanced Education and Labour Market Development. “These internationally peer-reviewed chairs provide a unique opportunity to further strengthen our world-class research to benefit our environment, our economy and our province.”

The Leading Edge Endowment Fund is establishing 20 leadership chairs, as well as nine regional innovation chairs, to attract top researchers to B.C. and keep them here. The leadership chair in hyperspectral remote sensing is the 16<sup>th</sup> chair announced to date. UVic has also been awarded a leadership chair in marine ecosystems and global change.

Funding for LEEF is part of \$1.7 billion committed to research and innovation in B.C. since 2001, which has leveraged another \$1 billion in research funding from other sources.

**Note:** Photos of the minister touring the hyperspectral remote sensing labs with chair Benoit Rivard will be available at [www.gov.bc.ca/tted/popt/gallery/default.htm](http://www.gov.bc.ca/tted/popt/gallery/default.htm).

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1 backgrounder(s) attached.

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## BACKGROUNDER

2009TTED0005-000063  
Jan. 20, 2009

Ministry of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development  
University of Victoria

### **B.C. LEADERSHIP CHAIR IN HYPERSPECTRAL REMOTE SENSING**

As the B.C. Leadership Chair in Hyperspectral Remote Sensing, based in the University of Victoria's department of geography, Benoit Rivard will focus international attention on advanced remote sensing applications in B.C. and Western Canada.

Remote sensing is the science of obtaining information on an object, area or phenomenon from a distance, typically by using aircraft, satellites, buoys or ships. Hyperspectral imaging, which collects and measures the reflection of hundreds of wavelengths of light from ground features, provides much more detailed imagery than conventional remote sensing systems.

At UVic, scientists use ground-based, airborne and satellite-based hyperspectral imaging systems to study the condition of targets such as water surfaces or vegetation canopies. This information is used for various applications such as mapping the health of coastal environments, or determining the risk factor for forest fires or the extent of pine beetle infestation.

UVic is the only academic institution in Canada to have an airborne hyperspectral scanner, flown in partnership with Terra Remote Sensing in Sidney, B.C. The scanner is being combined with other sensors – such as thermal scanners, digital cameras and a LiDAR scanning laser system – to address issues in resource exploration and management, and environmental monitoring. The platform is unique in Canada.

Working with government, industry and other university research partners, Rivard will investigate new hyperspectral techniques for resource exploration and environmental monitoring. A specific project is the search for an early hyperspectral signal of mountain pine beetle infestation – the pest that is ravaging B.C.'s forests.

Rivard is also developing new hyperspectral methods for detecting a range of minerals and rock types, and for estimating their abundance and distribution in a wider range of geological environments, including the Canadian North. This work has the potential to reduce field exploration costs for resource industries.

Educated at McGill University and Washington University, Rivard has published more than 60 research papers in refereed journals and more than 20 specialized field guides and reports on the use of spectroscopy in geological mapping and surveying for minerals.

For more information, visit <http://geog.uvic.ca/rivardlab/rivard.html>.

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2009TTED0002-000028  
Jan. 12, 2009

Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development  
ACCELERATE BC & MITACS

### **PROVINCE, BOEING PARTNER ON UNIQUE AEROSPACE RESEARCH**

RICHMOND – Cutting-edge research by B.C. graduate students will utilize vast quantities of data from the Boeing Company to find ways to improve aircraft efficiency and reliability, Ida Chong, Minister of Technology, Trade and Economic Development, announced today.

Under a partnership funded by the Province and Boeing Canada Operations Ltd., students from the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University will take part in 100 internships over the next five years with Boeing's Richmond-based AeroInfo Systems division, using a new multi-disciplinary field called visual analytics.

“Research is a cornerstone of B.C.’s economy, which is why we’re supporting graduate students to work with industry to find innovative solutions to ongoing challenges,” said Chong, who is responsible for research. “This partnership with Boeing’s AeroInfo Systems involves the largest investment in internships from the private sector so far, and has the potential to give B.C.’s aerospace sector a competitive edge and create better travel conditions for the public worldwide.”

The graduate student internships are part of ACCELERATE BC, a four-year program supported by \$10 million from the Province. It is administered by MITACS, a national research network that brings together university researchers and companies on collaborative projects. Now in its second year, ACCELERATE BC has matched more than 350 interns with B.C. businesses and organizations in the life sciences, clean technology, natural resources, energy and business services. The target of the program is 650 internships.

“This partnership through ACCELERATE BC is a great example of how university-based researchers can add tremendous value to B.C. industry,” said Jim Brookes, president of the ACCELERATE program for MITACS. “Even in these tough economic times, it makes good business sense to develop the products of tomorrow by making small investments in R&D today.”

Visual analytics combines computer science, mathematics, engineering, design and cognitive psychology. It provides an interactive visual representation of large volumes of data, sometimes unrelated, to help analysts acquire insight that will help them solve problems. Projects at AeroInfo will include aircraft safety, maintenance, engineering, manufacturing and parts management.

“We welcome this opportunity to help further British Columbia’s technological and analytical capabilities,” said Ken Goosen, president of AeroInfo Systems. “As a division of the Boeing Company, we are excited to be able to work with the universities to develop this discipline, while at the same time looking for ways to improve aircraft efficiency and reliability. We look forward to bringing visual analytics to the forefront of mainstream data analysis.”

The Province and AeroInfo Systems are each providing \$750,000 for the 100 internships, for a total of \$15,000

per graduate student. The federal government's Industrial R&D Internship program is contributing another \$750,000 for project management, training and travel. Internships usually last four months.

"Graduate students bring enhanced skills to B.C. industries and contribute to innovation in the tools used by all workers," said Murray Coell, Minister of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development. "Since students are often hired by these businesses upon graduation, internships also increase the retention of highly qualified personnel in B.C. that are so necessary for our economy."

Since 2001, British Columbia has invested over \$1.7 billion in research and innovation, which has brought in another \$1 billion in research funding from other sources. Government is also funding 2,500 new graduate student spaces at the province's four research-intensive universities by 2010, as well as providing \$10 million for graduate student scholarships.

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1 backgrounder(s) attached.

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## BACKGROUND

2009TTED0002-000028

Jan. 12, 2009

Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development

ACCELERATE BC &amp; MITACS

### ACCELERATE BC

#### **What is it?**

- ACCELERATE BC connects B.C. businesses with graduate student interns and their professors to help create innovative business practices and products and solve ongoing industry challenges.
- It grew out of an internship program in the mathematical sciences operated by MITACS, a research network based at Simon Fraser University. The added \$10 million from the Province has allowed the program to include more disciplines and to provide more than 650 internships over the next four years.
- The program allows B.C. graduate students to apply their skills to challenges faced by business in B.C. and offers them a way to develop professional relationships outside of academia.

#### **What has it accomplished?**

- In the 19 months since ACCELERATE BC was announced, more than 350 internships have been approved, or are in the final stages of approval.
- In addition to AeroInfo and Boeing Canada, companies that have hosted or are hosting ACCELERATE BC interns include Azure Dynamics, the B.C. Transmission Corp., CrowdTrust Technologies, the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association, Eagle Plains Resources, Elastic Entertainment, JASCO Research, Kinexus Bioinformatics Corp., Next Level Games, Radical Entertainment, SyncWave Energy and Viking Air Ltd.
- An example of a successful internship is Automated Systems Research, a Coquitlam-based company specializing in estimation software for the roofing industry. The firm partnered with an SFU graduate student in computer science to work on a problem that had prevented their software from creating a complete picture of an entire roof. The student was able to use a computational geometry technique to solve the problem, and the upgraded software is now undergoing final testing before being made available to customers.

#### **How does it work?**

- Most ACCELERATE BC internships last four months, though some are longer.
- Graduate student interns spend half their time on site with a B.C. company doing research. The rest of their time is spent back at their university, developing the techniques required to accomplish the project's goals.
- An internship is co-funded by the partner company and MITACS, through the support of the Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development. Each contributes \$7,500.

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