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Ministry of Small Business and Economic Development
minister of state for Resort Development

RESORT TASK FORCE RELEASES RECOMMENDATIONS

VICTORIA – Building on the existing success of British Columbia’s resort industry, minister of state for Resort Development Sandy Santori today released recommendations from the B.C. Resort Task Force Advisory Group.

“Across B.C., resorts are helping to diversify the economies of rural communities,” said Santori. “This government is working hard to identify opportunities to expand existing and new resorts, grow the industry and create local jobs.”

Currently, British Columbia’s 700 resorts and lodges employ 26,000 people, and the sector contributes \$178 million to federal, provincial and municipal government revenues each year. The all-season resort industry will see \$1.2 billion in new investment and expansion of existing resorts over the next two to five years.

The B.C. Resort Task Force Advisory Group recommendations build on the significant momentum already created by the government’s investment and tourism initiatives: the Vancouver Convention Centre Expansion Project, the Spirit of 2010 Tourism Strategy; the International Trade and Investment to 2010 Strategy, a \$610 million investment in Olympic venue construction, and a transportation infrastructure investment initiative that will see more than \$1.3 billion invested over three years to ensure a reliable transportation network throughout British Columbia’s regions.

Key areas covered by the task force recommendations include: greater certainty and efficiency in resort applications; increasing First Nations involvement; and the support and involvement of resort communities. Other areas addressed in the recommendations include sustainability and regulatory matters.

Minister Santori thanks the B.C. Resort Task Force Advisory Group for its work, and said that government will review the recommendations and enact changes to the resort strategy over the next few months.

The 15-member advisory group represents British Columbia's tourism sector, local government and First Nations, and has been assisting Minister Santori in identifying barriers to resort development and expansion. Members have broad knowledge and experience in the marine resort industry, eco-tourism, guest ranches, ski industry, adventure tourism, heli-skiing and the mountain adventure industry.

View the B.C. Resort Task Force Advisory Group's recommendations at:
http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/resortdev/rtf_report.html online.

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