



NEWS RELEASE

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Kelowna Chamber Sees Some Good Things in 2010 Provincial Budget

Kelowna, BC – The Kelowna Chamber of Commerce is pleased that the Provincial Government is focusing on balancing the budget and getting the fiscal house in order in the 2010 Budget.

The Kelowna Chamber believes the funding for specific sectors such as forestry and film will have a positive impact on the economy of Kelowna.

Also positive is the Provincial Government's commitment to continue to invest in an efficient transportation system. The Kelowna Chamber welcomes the \$4 billion in transportation funding over three years and was pleased to see Kelowna mentioned in the budget speech related to public transit investments. The Kelowna Chamber has been working with Chambers across the Okanagan Valley to push for a long-term Okanagan Valley Transportation Strategy. It is hoped that part of this \$4 billion in funding will be used for the creation of a long-term Transportation Strategy for the Okanagan Region.

It is also positive to see the investments in green initiatives, specifically the commitment of the provincial government to spend \$35 million over three years for LiveSmart BC and \$100 million over three years for Innovative Clean Energy Fund. According to a 2008 Economic Sustainability survey of Kelowna Chamber members, businesses have indicated that they face cost barriers to becoming more sustainable. These announcements of investments in clean energy will likely be positive for businesses in the Okanagan.

The Kelowna Chamber remains concerned about the impact of the HST on specific sectors such as the service industry and the restaurant sector. It was hoped that the Provincial Government would provide transitional support for businesses transitioning to the HST.

The Kelowna Chamber cautions the Provincial Government not to cut the not for profit sector too deeply as cuts to this sector impact the social fabric of our community.

The Kelowna Chamber of Commerce is a membership based business organization representing in excess of 1,600 business members. As the "Voice of Business", our mission is to foster a positive business environment by providing members with leadership, advocacy and services of value.

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