
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Small Business and Revenue

ROUNDTABLE TO BOOST SMALL BUSINESS

PRINCE GEORGE – Rick Thorpe, Minister of Small Business and Revenue and Minister Responsible for Regulatory Reform, today announced the establishment of a permanent Small Business Roundtable to provide a platform for ongoing dialogue with the small business community across British Columbia.

“Our government made a commitment to create a Small Business Roundtable,” said Thorpe. “We’re taking action to ensure continued investment and growth throughout all regions of the province. We want to hear directly from the small business community on its priorities and how we can work together to improve the economic prosperity of small businesses in British Columbia.”

The Small Business Roundtable will be composed of between 20 and 25 members and will provide ongoing advice to government on issues, strategies and possible actions to further the goal of British Columbia being the most small-business-friendly jurisdiction in Canada. Thorpe will chair the roundtable, supported by two vice-chairs, Kevin Evans, chair of the Coalition of BC Businesses and Linda Larson, mayor of Oliver.

“The roundtable is a signal of this government’s recognition that unique challenges face small businesses,” said Evans. “We’re not just scaled-down big business. I’m looking forward to ensuring that the roundtable becomes an effective forum that will benefit not only small business but all British Columbians.”

“As a mayor, I know the impact that small businesses have in our communities,” said Larson. “They are the core of our local economies. The roundtable will give small businesses a strong voice and the opportunity to strengthen our economy in partnership with government.”

The roundtable will undertake 16 consultations between now and next spring, and seek feedback from small business owners on their priorities, issues and possible solutions. The members will summarize the key issues facing the small business community in British Columbia and provide advice on how to further promote a strong, vibrant small business community in all regions of the province.

“Small businesses are one of the economic engines of our thriving economy here in British Columbia,” said Thorpe. “Through the roundtable, we will reach out and seek input from small business groups and organizations.”

A photo of Minister Thorpe with Kevin Evans, newly appointed vice chair of the Small Business Roundtable, is available online at: www.mediaroom.gov.bc.ca/DisplayEventDetails.aspx?eventId=14.

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