

---

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Ministry of Small Business and Revenue

[release number]

Apr. 11, 2006

### **SMALL BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE, PST REVIEW HELD IN QUESNEL**

QUESNEL – Rick Thorpe, Minister of Small Business and Revenue and Minister Responsible for Regulatory Reform, chaired consultation meetings of the Small Business Roundtable and Provincial Sales Tax Review today in Quesnel.

“The Small Business Roundtable was established to help develop a stronger partnership with small businesses in British Columbia – to look at ways government can help small business and also, what small business can do to help itself,” said Thorpe. “At the same time, government is consulting with local businesses for the Provincial Sales Tax review, to help us identify ways we can make sales tax less complex and more user-friendly.”

Thorpe was joined by Small Business Roundtable members Mark Nairn, Bruce Sutherland, Lita Powell, Tony Singh, MJ Whitemarsh and Naomi Yamamoto. They met with members of the local small business community– including representatives from the agriculture, retail and service sectors – to discuss issues, strategies and potential actions to contribute to small business growth, reduce regulatory burden, improve customer service and optimize revenue management.

“It is great to have the Small Business Roundtable and PST review consultation in Quesnel,” said Nairn. “As president of the BC Cattlemen’s Association with members in the Cariboo, I am pleased our local business operators have this excellent forum with government to exchange ideas and information.”

The Provincial Sales Tax Review consultation took place following the roundtable session. These consultations with local small business and industry representatives are reviewing current sales tax policy and administration processes. The purpose of the Provincial Sales Tax review is to develop revenue-neutral options that will streamline, simplify and enhance fairness in the administration of our provincial sales tax structure.

“We’ve heard many interesting ideas today from the local small business community in Quesnel,” said Bruce Sutherland, Small Business Roundtable member. “Each small business community in British Columbia is unique and it is important they all have this opportunity to share their ideas directly with government to build an effective working partnership.”

For more information on how to get involved in the small business roundtables and provincial sales tax consultations, please visit:

Provincial sales tax review: [www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/pstreview/index.htm](http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/pstreview/index.htm)

Small Business Roundtable: [www.smallbusinessroundtable.ca](http://www.smallbusinessroundtable.ca)

-30-

Contact: Theresa Lumsdon  
Communications Director  
250 889-3502