
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Small Business and Revenue

SMALL BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE AND PST REVIEW IN BURNABY

BURNABY – 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 Burnaby.

“One of the key priorities of the Small Business Roundtable is to 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. “Also, at this 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 Richard Lee, MLA for Burnaby North, and John Nuraney, MLA for Burnaby-Willingdon. They met with members of the local small business community – including representatives from the construction, retail and hospitality industries – to discuss issues, strategies and potential actions to contribute to small business growth, reduce regulatory burden, improve customer service and optimize revenue management.

“Small business plays a huge role in the success of our local economy,” said Lee. “This is a great opportunity for government and small business owners and operators to get together and share ideas and issues.”

“The Small Business Roundtable is working with small business stakeholders to help understand the needs of small business in British Columbia,” said Nuraney. “These consultations will to help us realize our goal to be the most small-business-friendly jurisdiction in Canada.”

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 provincial sales tax,” said Harry Bloy, MLA for Burquitlam. “This will benefit all businesses in Burnaby and all of British Columbia.”

“We’ve heard many interesting ideas today from the local small business community in Burnaby,” said John Cameron, Small Business Roundtable member. “Burnaby small business owners have always been a vital part of the provincial economy and we look forward to working with them to improve B.C.’s economic prosperity to 2010 and beyond.”

For more information on the Small Business Roundtable and Provincial Sales Tax Review, please visit: Provincial Sales Tax Review: www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/pstreview/index.htm
Small Business Roundtable: www.smallbusinessroundtable.ca

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