
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Small Business and Revenue

SMALL BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE AND PST REVIEW IN ABBOTSFORD

ABBOTSFORD – 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 Abbotsford.

“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 at the Small Business Roundtable consultation by John van Dongen, MLA for Abbotsford-Clayburn and Minister of State for Intergovernmental Relations. They met with members of the small business community in Abbotsford – including representatives from the agriculture, construction and retail sectors – to discuss issues, strategies and potential actions to contribute to small business growth, reduce regulatory burden, improve customer service and optimize revenue management.

“Abbotsford’s population and economy is booming,” said van Dongen. “This means opportunities for small business owners to grow their operations. The roundtables are creating a forum for entrepreneurs to work with government to achieve our goal to be the most small business friendly jurisdiction in the country.”

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,” said Michael de Jong, MLA for Abbotsford-Mount Lehman and Minister of Labour and Citizens’ Services. “This is important for all businesses in Abbotsford and the rest of British Columbia.”

“We’ve heard from several members of the local small business community today,” said Garnet Etsell, Small Business Roundtable member. “As a member of the business community here in Abbotsford, I was pleased to have our small business owners and stakeholders engaged in these face-to-face discussions and to be able to bring ideas forward on ways to have the most effective working partnership with government.”

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

Small Business Roundtable: www.smallbusinessroundtable.ca

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