
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2006SBR0006-000067
Feb. 6, 2006

Ministry of Small Business and Revenue

SMALL BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE, PST REVIEW IN PENTICTON

PENTICTON – 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 Penticton.

“The Small Business Roundtable is a forum for government and small business to develop a strong partnership – to look at ways government can help small business as well as how small business can 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.”

Joining Thorpe at the meeting was the MLA for Penticton-Okanagan Valley, Bill Barisoff. They met with representatives of the local small business community – including members of the agriculture, tourism, high tech 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.

“The Small Business Roundtable is an opportunity for government and small business operators to share ideas and work together,” said Barisoff. “The suggestions and solutions brought forward here today will help to create an environment for small businesses to grow and succeed in Penticton and across British Columbia.”

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 the provincial sales tax.

“It’s great to have small business engage in face to face discussions with government,” said Small Business Roundtable member Neal Davies. “Our business community in Penticton appreciates this opportunity to share with government their suggestions to help British Columbia become the most small-business-friendly jurisdiction in Canada.”

Over the coming months small business roundtable meetings and provincial sales tax review consultations will occur across every region of British Columbia. For more information on how to get involved in the consultations, please visit: www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/pstreview/index.htm (Provincial sales tax review) and www.smallbusinessroundtable.ca (Small Business Roundtable).

-30-

Media Theresa Lumsdon
contact: Communications Director
 250 888-3502

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province’s news feeds using RSS, visit the Province’s website at www.gov.bc.ca.