
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Small Business and Revenue

REGULATIONS WILL CONSIDER SMALL BUSINESS IMPACTS

LANGLEY – Government will use a detailed checklist to ensure legislative and regulatory changes are streamlined and meet genuine public policy needs, Rick Thorpe, Minister of Small Business and Revenue and Minister Responsible for Regulatory Reform, announced today.

“Over the past five years, we’ve eliminated over 41 per cent of regulatory requirements – over 158,000 in all – at the same time maintaining regulations protecting health, safety and the environment,” said Thorpe. “Now, we’re implementing a small business lens recommended by the permanent Small Business Roundtable, to ensure all proposed laws and regulations meet our regulatory reform goals and consider their potential impact on small business.”

The Small Business Lens asks a number of tough questions related to regulatory criteria. Government has incorporated these questions into its regulatory reform checklist. Ministries proposing new legislation or regulations must use the checklist to confirm the changes are needed, competitive relative to other jurisdictions, streamlined and clear.

“Implementation of the Small Business Lens is one of the key recommendations coming out of the first-year report of the Small Business Roundtable, which reflects what we heard from hundreds of small business representatives,” said Kevin Evans, vice-chair of the roundtable and Western Canada vice-president of the Retail Council of Canada.

In its report last October, the Small Business Roundtable advocated adoption of the Small Business Lens as a way to make British Columbia’s regulatory environment more responsive to the needs of small business and industry. The permanent roundtable, which Thorpe chairs, was established in 2005.

“British Columbia’s government was the first in Canada to take huge steps to improve regulatory accountability and transparency, and the Small Business Lens will help protect business from unnecessary and cumbersome regulation going forward,” said Laura Jones, vice-president of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business.

The lens is available at www.smallbusinessroundtable.ca online.

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1 backgrounder(s) attached.

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