



NEWS RELEASE

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Richmond Chamber to Government: Include Richmond in Asia-Pacific Trade

(Coquitlam) The Richmond Chamber of Commerce appealed to the B.C. Government to include the Chamber in its trade development initiatives with the Asia Pacific.

Addressing the B.C. Government's Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services on the 2007 Budget in Coquitlam today, Barbara Tinson, Chair of Richmond Chamber of Commerce, complimented the government on its fiscal prudence and success in achieving a triple A Moody's rating, but also gave them pointed advice.

"The government needs to keep a tight rein on spending," Tinson told the Committee. "We strongly encourage the government to continue on its path to reduce the legacy of debt to future generations when planning the 2007 Budget."

Tinson noted that the government needs to include Richmond in its Asia-Pacific initiatives for investing in B.C.'s future. "Richmond is Canada's gateway to the Asia-Pacific," she said. "Your Asia-Pacific Trade Council made great recommendations in June, 2006, to build trade with Asia-Pacific, and we recommend the government undertake them. But the government needs to recognize the existing relationships that we already have with China and the Asia-Pacific. Richmond has developed many relationships with China over the years, and we should be consulted and included in developing and implementing initiatives with the Asia Pacific. Stronger relations with China and the Asia-Pacific will only strengthen B.C.'s economy."

"Investing in Asia-Pacific trade is investing in our future and a more diversified economy," said Tinson. "We also need to ensure that we invest in future generations – by enhancing opportunities for more to participate in post secondary education, increased investment in skills training, and in our transportation infrastructure. Investing in all of these things will provide a good return on investment and create an even healthier economy for future generations."

Tinson also noted that by holding the line on spending and reducing the province's debt, the other provincial priorities, such as healthcare, education, and improving assistance for people in need, will be more achievable and more consistent for the longer term.

Tinson made the presentation to the Committee with the Chamber's Executive Director, Craig Jones, and Bruce Rozenhart, Chair of the Chamber's newly-formed Policy and Public Affairs Committee.

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