

## CHAMBER REPORT

**Richmond, BC – Tuesday, April 25, 2006**

The Richmond Chamber of Commerce would like to commend the Federal Government of Canada, the Musqueam Nation, The City of Richmond, the Canadian Lands Company (CLC) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) for their hard work and collaboration in reaching their landmark memorandum of understanding (MOU).

The 55-hectare/136.5 acre parcel is a critical piece to Richmond's sustainable future. This settlement was a historic achievement, which delivers major economic benefit to the City of Richmond and the Musqueam Nation.

It guarantees that a significant portion of this land will become green area and public amenity space and that any development on the site will be coordinated with the City and be in the best interests of Richmond.

The Richmond Chamber of Commerce supports the action taken by the Canada Lands Company to have the necessary portion of the property removed from the ALR. Once the property is removed from the ALR it is our hope that the City of Richmond will rezone the available lands in the best interests of our community.

The City's designated use of the property as green area and public amenity space is an important mix to community development as businesses that seek to move to Richmond want sufficient amenities in the community for their employees' families such as great schools, recreational and cultural opportunities, green space and parkland.

The Richmond Chamber of Commerce would encourage further collaboration between the City of Richmond, the Musqueam Nation and the CLC as the terms of this historic MOU are implemented and the property is released from the ALR.

The Richmond Chamber of Commerce endorses the concept of Tourism Richmond's Asia Pacific Trade and Showcase Centre on the City portion of the Garden City land. We believe this use will build upon our existing tourism, business and cultural bases. We recognize that the Centre must be developed on a sound business basis to be successful. This type of facility will further leverage the locational advantage of Richmond. Many overseas manufacturers seek locations where they can display new products on a semi-permanent basis, bringing potential customers to the display from within North America and the Asia Pacific region.

For more information on this topic, please contact Josh O'Connor, Chair, of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce at 604-278-2822.