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## **Alberta-B.C. barrier-busting agreement one step closer** *Amendment Act paves the way for TILMA*

Edmonton ... Alberta has taken a significant step in its ground-breaking interprovincial trade agreement with British Columbia with the passage of the *Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA) Implementation Statutes Amendment Act*. The Act, which passed Third Reading in the Alberta Legislature, provides the mechanics needed to fully implement the TILMA by April 2009.

“Once in place, the TILMA will create Canada’s second largest economic region and help preserve Alberta’s quality of life into the future, as a strong and vibrant legacy for generations to come,” said Premier Ed Stelmach.

The TILMA is an innovative agreement that will simplify, streamline and strengthen the way Albertans do business with B.C. It will reduce barriers to trade and labour mobility between the provinces, and will open up new opportunities for Albertans.

“At this week’s Western Premiers’ Conference, I will continue to work with our provincial and territorial neighbours to find ways to further break through the often ridiculous trade and labour mobility impediments that complicate lives and cost Canada billions of dollars annually,” said Stelmach.

The Act is a critical piece of legislation that:

- reconciles corporate registration, which will help businesses, especially small businesses, by eliminating the need to register in both provinces;
- provides authority for Alberta to waive certain corporate presence requirements when energy regulators in both provinces agree to equivalent, high standards and
- amends the *Government Organizations Act*, consolidating provisions of the TILMA in one place to allow the agreement to operate smoothly.

Alberta also continues to consult with municipalities, along with academic institutions, school jurisdictions, health authorities, occupational organizations, regulatory bodies, crown corporations and financial institutions that will be covered by the TILMA when it is fully implemented.

The British Columbia Legislature is currently considering complementary legislation.

More information on the TILMA is available at [www.tilma.ca](http://www.tilma.ca).

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