
BACKGROUND

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Ministry of Economic Development

TILMA CUTS THROUGH RED TAPE

What is the B.C.-Alberta Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA)?

British Columbia and Alberta signed the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA) in April 2006. The TILMA is a groundbreaking bilateral agreement between Alberta and B.C. on trade, investment and labour mobility. The TILMA came into effect on April 1, 2007 and will be fully implemented by April 2009.

Why the TILMA?

- The TILMA will create the second largest economy in Canada, with a combined B.C.-Alberta market of more than 7.7 million people.
- The TILMA gives workers the freedom to move from one province to the other by recognizing occupational certifications of workers in both provinces, reducing costs, in both time and money.
- The TILMA will also apply greater consistency in recognizing the credentials and qualifications of foreign-trained professionals within the two provinces.
- The TILMA is critical to our economy as interprovincial trade barriers cost consumers, businesses and investors time and money every year due to unnecessary red tape. The TILMA streamlines business registration and reporting requirements so that businesses registered in one province are automatically recognized in the other.
- The TILMA utilizes a clear, comprehensive and enforceable dispute avoidance and dispute resolution mechanism.

What does the TILMA cover?

- The TILMA agreement applies only to government measures that restrict trade, investment or labour mobility.
- The TILMA does not apply to:
 - water use, royalties, taxation, First Nations, regulated rates, social policy, and labour and employment standards.
- The TILMA upholds important public policy, including: public safety and security; environmental and consumer protection; protection of the health, safety and well-being of workers; and the provision of health services and social services within the province. Municipalities, crown corporations and the financial services sector will be covered by the TILMA when it is fully implemented by April 2009. Consultations continue to determine how these sectors will be covered by the TILMA.

What is next for TILMA?

- Over the next year, the Province will continue to work with B.C. stakeholders, regulators, and professional associations, as well as municipalities, to finalize the TILMA. The TILMA will be fully implemented by April 2009.

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