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## NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Economic Development

### **TILMA MOVES CLOSER TO IMPLEMENTATION**

VICTORIA – Economic Development Minister Colin Hansen introduced legislation today to implement the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA) between British Columbia and Alberta.

“Implementation marks a major step that will help the TILMA realize its great potential to encourage freer trade and support economic vitality,” Hansen said. “This legislation strengthens the ability of the agreement to provide a fair and effective framework to build interprovincial co-operation and bring mutual benefit.”

The Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Implementation Act will enable B.C. to exercise its rights and fulfil its commitments under the groundbreaking trade agreement. By providing effective dispute resolution procedures and establishing a right of appeal, including judicial review of panel decisions, the legislation will help the TILMA become a powerful instrument to support and sustain economic growth in Canada’s two westernmost provinces.

Since the TILMA was signed in April 2006, British Columbia and Alberta have agreed on a number of measures designed to allow a freer movement of people and services across the provincial boundary. These agreements support: equal access to both provinces by licensed charter buses; information sharing and joint participation in energy research; technology development and innovation; co-operative planning and management of adjoining provincial parks along the border; and collaborative approaches to advance the quality of post-secondary education in both provinces, through credit transfer and distance education programs.

The Province has also made progress over the last year working with organizations representing many occupations to achieve agreement on cross-border recognition of licensed practitioners. These agreements cover physicians, registered nurses, health-care providers, architects, and skilled tradespersons.

Striving to reduce and eliminate barriers to the free movement of workers, goods, services and investments, the TILMA came into force on April 1, 2007. Canada's most comprehensive interprovincial trade agreement, the TILMA creates a market of more than 7.7 million people – the nation's second largest economy.

More information on TILMA is available at [www.tilma.ca](http://www.tilma.ca) and on the Ministry of Economic Development’s website at [www.gov.bc.ca/ecdev](http://www.gov.bc.ca/ecdev).

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1 backgrounder(s) attached.

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