



Invitation to Small Business Task Force Community Engagement

On May 2, 2018, the Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology, announced the launch of the Small Business Task Force, a special initiative of the Small Business Roundtable, to seek ideas from entrepreneurs and business owners across the province on how to maintain and strengthen a healthy small business sector in British Columbia.

As members of the Task Force and fellow entrepreneurs, we want to hear from you – what could government do to better support business success in your community? We will be visiting your region in June and invite you to join us on **Tuesday, June 26th, 2018 in Cranbrook from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm** to share your ideas in person. Specific venue details are attached on the last page.

If you would prefer to participate on a different date we welcome you to attend one of the six other engagements we will be hosting across the province. Please email us if you would like more information:

June 6 – Surrey
June 8 – Nanaimo
June 13 – Terrace

June 14 – Prince George
June 20 – Richmond
June 28 – Kelowna

Discussion Topics

At the engagement session, you will have the opportunity to participate in small group discussions where you can provide your suggested solutions to each of the discussion topics below. In your RSVP, as noted below, please indicate which three of the topics are of highest priority to you. The topics include:

- 1. Managing the Cost of Doing Business in B.C.** (e.g. operating costs, wages and employee housing)
- 2. Supporting the Diverse Needs of Small Businesses and Entrepreneurs to Start Up and Grow** (e.g. rural and remote, women, newcomers to B.C., persons with disabilities and youth)
- 3. Addressing Employment and Skills Training Needs.**
- 4. Increasing Awareness of and Access to Government Programs and Services.**
- 5. Improving Government Interactions with Small Business.**



Other Avenues to Engage

To ensure business owners in every area of B.C. have an opportunity to provide their input, we have also set up a concurrent online survey that will be open throughout the month of June. The website will launch June 1st at: engage.gov.bc.ca/smallbusiness.

In addition to the community engagements and survey, the Task Force will seek online comments on a Discussion Paper in July. Based on all of the above, we intend to submit our report to the Minister in October, 2018.

We kindly ask that you confirm your attendance no later than one week prior to the session; or by June 19th, 2018 for the Cranbrook session.

Please RSVP to SBTF@gov.bc.ca and provide your name, organization, email address, community session being attended and top three discussion topics.

We look forward to hearing from you. Together, we can work to build a healthy small business environment, create good jobs and grow a strong, sustainable economy for all British Columbians.

Sincerely,

Michael Hwang
Chair
Small Business Task Force

Cybele Negris
Vice-Chair, SB Roundtable and
Small Business Task Force Member

Shahraz Kassam
Small Business
Task Force Member



Cranbrook Venue Details

Small Business Task Force Community Engagement

Date	June 26, 2018
Time	10:00 am – 12:30 pm
Venue	St. Eugene Golf Resort and Casino
Address	7777 Mission Rd, Cranbrook
Parking	Free parking available on site.
Notes	Please arrive early to check-in. Lunch will be provided
RSVP	By June 19, 2018 to SBTF@gov.bc.ca and provide: Name Organization Email address Community session being attended Top three priority discussion topics
Public Engagement Website	engage.gov.bc.ca/smallbusiness