

# 2015 Advocacy Report

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The Burnaby Board of Trade is the voice for local business in Burnaby. With our triple bottom line perspective, we advocate to all levels of government on a variety of issues on behalf of the business community.

Visit [www.bbot.ca/advocacy](http://www.bbot.ca/advocacy) to learn more or contact Cory Redekop, Manager of Policy & Events at [cory@bbot.ca](mailto:cory@bbot.ca) or 604-412-0100.

## ITEM: Mobile Business Licenses

**THE ISSUE:** Companies that do business throughout Metro Vancouver have to apply and pay for a business license in each municipality they work in – a costly and burdensome requirement

### BBOT ACTIONS

Our President & CEO and our Policy Manager successfully lobbied Burnaby City Council for the creation of a special license for mobile businesses that would be valid across municipal boundaries

Pilot program for the construction and trades sector was launched

Pilot program then made permanent allowing these businesses to work throughout Burnaby, New Westminister, Surrey, Delta, Richmond and Vancouver for a single fee from now on



## ITEM: Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion

**THE ISSUE:** Kinder Morgan's proposed expansion of the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion from Alberta through to the Westview terminal in Burnaby

### BBOT ACTIONS

BBOT Board of Directors struck a special task force to take a leadership role in reviewing the proposal

BBOT released a thoughtful review of the project to its membership outlining the main arguments for the expansion and identifying four areas of concern with the current proposal

BBOT successfully applied to be a Commenter in the National Energy Board (NEB) hearings on the project

BBOT issued its Letter of Comment to the NEB outlining the economic imperative of getting resources to market, but sharing its concerns with the expansion as proposed



## ITEM: Climate Change

**THE ISSUE:** The impacts of climate change may be beginning to be felt more acutely. Businesses need to get ahead of looming government regulations.

### BBOT ACTIONS

BBOT made a submission to the BC government for consideration in the creation of BC's Climate Leadership Plan

The BBOT's signature *Pledge for a Sustainable Community* program was named a finalist for global Corporate Social Responsibility Award

BBOT's *Environmental Sustainability Committee* drafted a position paper urging the federal government to help small businesses identify environmental risks and identify ways to adopt and prepare



## ITEM: Transportation & Transit

**THE ISSUE:** The region needs a sustainably-funded, long-term transportation plan to facilitate better movement of goods and people

### BBOT ACTIONS

BBOT voices concern with transit referendum tax plan but urges a "Yes" vote for better transit

Following plebiscite defeat, BBOT calls on government and Translink to regain public trust and come up with a new solution for regional transportation improvements

BBOT's Government Relations Committee reviewing possible Translink governance models and options for funding transportation/transit expansion



## ITEM: Fixing the PST

**THE ISSUE:** Current PST system discourages investment and innovation

### BBOT ACTIONS

Drafted a policy paper calling for the provincial government to "Fix the PST" by implementing refundable tax credits for all business investment in equipment, machinery and software

Presented PST paper personally to Hon. Mike de Jong, Minister of Finance

Made pre-budget presentation to *Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services* calling for PST input tax credits spent on key business investments



## ITEM: Water Shortages and Water Policy

**THE ISSUE:** Water shortages are becoming more common and responsibility for water is fragmented between governments and agencies

### BBOT ACTIONS

Our *Environmental Sustainability Committee* drafted a position paper calling for a national framework to consolidate existing water policies and create a full accounting of current water resources

The BBOT successfully championed this policy at the AGM of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce where it was adopted as a formal policy of the national chamber



## ITEM: Big Bend Bus Service

**THE ISSUE:** Dozens of businesses and thousands of employees were struggling with a lack of transit service in Big Bend area of south Burnaby. Businesses weren't able to recruit employees who didn't drive.

### BBOT ACTIONS

BBOT convened a town hall meeting and roundtable discussion with representatives from the business community, City of Burnaby and Translink

Bus route was expanded to service this area and new service was established for area businesses

