

Views From the West: Current Economic and Social Trends

Monday, January 19, 2009, 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Ontario Investment and Trade Centre, 35th Floor, Main Theatre
250 Yonge Street (south of Dundas), Toronto

Dear Colleague,

The Intergovernmental Committee for Economic and Labour Force Development in Toronto (ICE) invites you to a forum at the **Ontario Investment and Trade Centre** on **Monday, January 19, 2009** from **8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.** on “**Views from the West: Current Economic and Social Trends.**”

Changes in the global economy over the past few months have had enormous impacts on every region of Canada. **How have these changes touched BC and Alberta, and what implications do they have for Toronto and Ontario?**



Come hear **Salman Husain**, Manager of Planning and Analysis, **Alberta Ministry of Finance and Enterprise**, reflect on the current state of Alberta's oil boom, where its been and where its going, and what implications these trends have for Toronto and the rest of Canada.

Heather Dickson, Assistant Deputy Minister, **Labour Market Services Transition Office, BC Ministry of Housing and Social Development**, will share lessons learned through the implementation of BC's Labour Market Development Agreement and what approaches BC is taking to ensure the effectiveness of its employment programs.



There is no cost to participate in this forum. A light breakfast will be provided.

I look forward to seeing you on **Monday, January 19, 2009** at what promises to be an informative and exciting session. An agenda is attached.

Seating capacity is limited so **please RSVP** to info@icecommittee.org by no later than January 12, 2009 (please indicate if you have any dietary restrictions or special needs). Feel free to call me directly at 416-348-9935 if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Enid Slack, Chair, ICE Committee

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Agenda

- 8:30 – 9:00 Registration, continental breakfast and networking
- 9:00 – 9:05 Introduction – **Enid Slack**, Chair, ICE Committee
- 9:05 – 9:35 **Alberta's Oil Boom: Still Booming or Poised to Bust? What Does It All Mean?**
✓ **Salman Husain**, Manager, Planning and Analysis, Alberta Ministry of Finance and Enterprise
- 9:35 – 9:45 Discussion
- 9:45 – 10:15 **BC's Approach to Employment Programs: Strategies for Successful, Long-Term Labour Market Transitions**
✓ **Heather Dickson**, Assistant Deputy Minister, BC Ministry of Housing and Social Development
- 10:15 – 10:25 Discussion
- 10:25 – 10:30 Closing Remarks – **Enid Slack**, Chair, ICE Committee

About Our Speakers:

Salman Husain has held various positions dealing with international economics and trade, domestic and international investment, financial industry analysis, strategic planning, micro-macro economic analysis, global economic trends and business development. He has worked in senior management positions in the public and private sectors in the US, Canada and Australia. Salman has an MPA from North Carolina State University and has done further post-graduate work in Australia and the US in international economics, organizational development and business process improvement.

As program lead at the Labour Market Services Transition Office, **Heather Dickson** has guided the implementation of BC's Labour Market Development Agreement. She is Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for employment programming in the BC Ministry of Housing and Social Development. Heather has been involved in major change initiatives for more than twenty years with the British Columbia government, including student financial assistance, treaty negotiations, welfare reform, labour market development services and employment program design and procurement. She was on the BC negotiating team for the Labour Market Development Agreement and Labour Market Agreement with the federal government. Heather has a teaching certificate from Toronto Teachers' College, a B.A. in Art History from the University of British Columbia, as well as post-graduate work in Architecture, and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Victoria.

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