



JUNE 11TH TO 13TH, 2017

DELTA VICTORIA OCEAN POINTE RESORT AND SPA

### Why I am so excited about the 2017 BC Economic Summit (and you should be too!)

What are you doing from June 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>? I want to personally invite you to attend the BC Economic Summit in Victoria, BC. The BC Economic Summit always offers professional and informative sessions and this year will be no different.

Here are just some of the reasons we are so excited about this year's Summit:

- 1. Town Talk:** As we have travelled the Province, we have discovered that communities face many of the same challenges but have also achieved significant successes. The Town Talks will have communities grouped by population and be designed to help you discuss your challenges and to potentially discover ways to move beyond the challenges and start focussing on the opportunities. You will also hear from some of those that have submitted [BC Economic Development Award](#) nominations for successful marketing initiatives and community projects. This is the second time that we will be hosting the Town Talks and they are ideal for Mayors, Chiefs, Councils, Board Members, EDO's, Chambers and more. Due to the success of our first Town Talk, it is now being duplicated by other associations across the Country – discover the benefit of sharing and join us at the Town Talk.
- 2. David Williams, Bank of Canada:** David Williams is a Senior Economist at Canada's central bank, the Bank of Canada. His research focuses on macro-financial linkages between house prices, credit markets and the real economy. David is also part of a regionally-based team that conducts the Business Outlook Survey and meets with company CEOs in British Columbia and Yukon each quarter to discuss business strategy and economic conditions. He has authored eight issues of the national publication. Prior to joining the Bank in 2012, David spent nine years in increasingly senior roles in the Australian public service. At the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, he was the Senior Adviser for Economic Policy and led a team of five economists providing high-level analysis and advice for Prime Minister John Howard. David was later a lecturer at Oxford University and a PhD research intern at the International Monetary Fund. Don't miss David's keynote presentation titled *The Canadian Economy: Recent Developments and Future Challenges*.
- 3. Matthew Rooney, George W Bush Presidential Center:** Matt's presentation will focus on the "unfinished business" of NAFTA: policy areas that were not addressed in the final agreement, where practical steps to more closely integrate the North American market would produce additional commercial opportunities, economic growth and job creation. The Bush Institute has recently completed an extensive analysis of this question, based on a broad consultation with political, business and academic leaders from Canada, Mexico and the U.S., and will soon

present an agenda of policy recommendations designed to pursue these improvements. Matt Rooney joined the Bush Center in June 2015 from a career as a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State. At postings in Washington and abroad, Matt focused on advocating market-driven solutions to economic policy challenges in both industrialized and developing countries, and on protecting the interests of U.S. companies abroad.

4. **Special Announcement:** We just can't wait. It drives me crazy when I can't just blurt it out. But we will be announcing a new program designed for our members and it's the first of its kind in Canada. In addition to this new program, we will also be announcing two new manuals, one of which we hope to release at the Summit.
5. **Not one but TWO Pre Summit Sessions: EDO Kick Start: Getting Off on the Right Foot in Your New Community** is focused on those new to economic development (or those just looking for a refresher). The second session is the **Role of Local Elected Officials in Economic Development** and is for Mayors, Chiefs and Councils (or those trying to figure out how to best use and get support from your Mayor, Chief or Council).
6. **An Amazing Agenda:** We have put together an aggressive agenda that will be thought provoking and educational. These sessions, combined with several fun activities will have you going back to your community full of knowledge and new contacts. [Click here for the Agenda.](#)
7. **BC Economic Development Awards:** On Tuesday evening, we will be presenting the [BC Economic Development Awards](#). After traveling to more than 30 different BC communities in the past twelve months, I have witnessed some amazing projects. I hope to see some of these nominated and encourage you to sit back, consider, and then submit a project that will help gain significant recognition for you and your community. You can download the nomination package [here](#).
8. **Meeting with YOU:** I really want to meet with you to get a better understanding of how BCEDA can develop tools and resources that are relevant to your needs. Our membership has more than doubled in the last three years and we recognize that we need to look at what we are doing and to consider ways that we can adapt programs to better meet the needs of our members and communities throughout BC. I look forward to having an opportunity to sit down with you and discuss what is working and what is not and to hear your ideas about how BCEDA can help. If you would like a private discussion please email [dwheeldon@bceda.ca](mailto:dwheeldon@bceda.ca) and I would be happy to arrange a time to talk at the Summit.
9. **OH PS: I should tell you that the Summit hotel is filling up fast!** If you have not registered at the [Delta Victoria Ocean Pointe Resort & Spa](#) please do so soon. The evening of Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> is sold out at the hotel but rooms are still available for the rest of the Summit. If you come to Victoria on Saturday and have to stay at another downtown hotel that night, we can make arrangements to have you picked up and brought to the Delta to check in on the Sunday.

I could go on and on about why you should attend and join in on the excitement but for now I will leave it at this. Stay tuned though as I am sure it will not be the last time you hear me express my excitement. [Click here to register for the 2017 BC Economic Summit by May 5<sup>th</sup> and save \\$50.](#)

See you in June!

Dale Wheeldon  
President & CEO, BCEDA