

### **Single Business Number makes dealing with government faster, simpler**

Starting a new business or making changes for existing ones will now get a whole lot easier with the implementation of the Single Business Number project. The project is a joint initiative of the British Columbia government, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and other Crown agencies. It will streamline business registration and other administrative transactions required when you start up and run a business in British Columbia.

Key to the success of this project is the use of the Business Number (BN), which identifies a business and many of its government accounts to any government department, agency or public body participating in the SBN partnership.

Business people, professional associations and groups told government their biggest frustration when dealing with government was the amount of red tape they had to get through to register their business. It was time-consuming and frustrating driving around to different offices and agencies to fill out an endless sea of forms—all of which asked for the same basic information. Then, to top it off, they were assigned several different numbers and codes to identify their business to the various agencies.

Welcome to the new way of doing business in BC. Our vision is for a business to have just one number when dealing with various levels of government and, through OneStop Business Services, one window to access the various government agencies with which you need to communicate.

Clients will soon be able to securely register their business with a number of agencies simultaneously, all from the comfort of their home, office or at OneStop kiosks across the province via the Internet. Business owners will be able to:

- Obtain a Business Number
- Register for the four major CRA accounts (GST/HST, corporate income tax, payroll deductions and import/export tax)
- Register their proprietorship or partnership with Ministry of Finance
- Register with the Ministry of Provincial Revenue for provincial sales tax and hotel room tax accounts
- Initiate a Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) account
- Obtain a business license from almost half the municipalities across the province
- Change their address with multiple agencies at once

These services will be available in March 2004, and over the coming months the provincial government will continue to look for more partners at all levels of government and phase in the use of the BN with other government departments and agencies.

For more information on the project, visit [www.cse.gov.bc.ca/SBNP/](http://www.cse.gov.bc.ca/SBNP/). If you have any suggestions for other future partners, please contact Mike Kelley at 250-356-8657. For more information on the CRA's programs and services, visit [www.cra.gc.ca](http://www.cra.gc.ca).

Register your business...all at one sitting, one time and in minutes instead of days and weeks!