



## **Business Council of British Columbia Announces Addition of Policy and Communications Expertise to Help Realize BC's Full Potential**

**Vancouver, BC January 25, 2012**—The Business Council of British Columbia (BCBC) today announced the addition of top level talent to the organization with a mandate to build on the Council's 45-year history of excellence in public policy research, collaboration, advocacy and leadership – underpinned by a vision to realize BC's full potential.

**Tom Syer and Denise Dalmer** have joined the Business Council, reporting to Executive Vice President and Chief Policy Officer Jock Finlayson. Tom will serve as Vice President of Policy and Communications, while Denise assumes the position of Director of Environment and Sustainability.

"I am pleased to welcome two well-respected and experienced public policy experts with outstanding track records of getting things done the right way," said Greg D'Avignon, President and CEO of the Business Council of British Columbia. "Tom and Denise, through 40 years of combined experience in the public and private sectors, have the skills to develop sophisticated solutions to advance BC's economic prosperity and improve the well-being of those who invest, live and work in the province."

"Tom and Denise will help build on the credibility and knowledge of our 250 member companies and organizations that span every key sector of BC's economy," added D'Avignon

"I am delighted that these two exceptional professionals are joining our team at the Business Council," stated Jock Finlayson, Executive Vice President and Chief Policy Officer. "Tom and Denise have strong expertise in several of the public policy areas that are at the heart of what we do at the Council. Both have experience applying collaborative approaches and developing principled solutions that strengthen our economy and lever BC's competitive advantages, while maintaining the balance we need to sustain our land, air and water resources for future generations."

### **Tom Syer, Vice President of Policy and Communications**

Tom has 15 years of experience in senior leadership roles in the public and private sector, including as a Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy Coordination and Issues Management in the provincial government and as a Director of First Nation and Corporate Relations for a successful BC- based renewable energy company.



Tom played an integral role in the development and roll-out of numerous significant provincial policy initiatives and was responsible for successfully advancing corporate and First Nations relationships for the province's largest wind farm and run-of-river projects.

Tom has actively participated in numerous policy and communications committees for the Business Council, and other industry and business organizations, including the Energy Policy Institute of Canada. He holds a Master of Arts and Bachelor of Business Administration from Simon Fraser University.

### **Denise Dalmer, Director of Environment and Sustainability**

Denise has 24 years of experience in natural resources management in the public, private and non-profit sectors. She was the Director of Project Assessment and then of Energy Policy in the BC Ministry of Energy and Mines for over 10 years. Denise subsequently served BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation in roles that focused on developing policy and stakeholder engagement. Over the past 7 years, Denise through her consulting practice has supported and led numerous local, provincial and national projects including preparing energy and mining project regulatory applications, and water business process analysis for IT systems (online water and mining processes), working with the military on climate change issues, and supporting stakeholder and First Nations engagement projects.

She played an integral role in permitting BC's first independent power producer projects (gas, wood residue, small hydro), creation of the BC Water Use Planning process, development of environmental assessment legislation, and over the past 4 years has been working to develop a marine plan for the west coast of Vancouver Island.

Denise has a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Victoria, a Bachelor of Arts (economics and statistics) from the University of Guelph, and a Justice Institute of BC Certificate in Negotiation.

The Business Council of British Columbia, now in its 45th year as the premier business organization in BC, represents 250 leading companies and enterprises in every key sector of the economy. Our membership, found throughout every region of BC, accounts for over 25 percent of all jobs in the province.

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***"The place where leaders meet to unlock BC's full potential"***

**Contact:** Greg D'Avignon, President and Chief Executive Officer: (604) 696-6586  
Jock Finlayson, Executive Vice President and Chief Policy Officer: (604) 696-6585