

Westbank Chamber of Commerce Supports Crystal Expansion

April 16, 2007, WESTBANK B.C. – The Westbank Chamber of Commerce today announced its support of the Crystal Mountain Expansion Plan. After review of the Expansion by the Chamber's Advocacy Committee, and a vote of the Chamber Board of Directors the Chamber is offering its formal support of the Expansion Plan based on the benefits the Expansion will bring to the regional community.

The Crystal Mountain expansion will result in the addition of a world class signature golf course, an increased vertical drop of 700 metres and increased skiable terrain of 550 hectares of groomed ski runs. The new resort will have 12 lifts, a mountain-top restaurant, and a modern resort/ village. The benefits to the Westside will be significant:

- Enhanced ability to attract and extend the average duration of stay of tourism visitors throughout all four seasons.
- New jobs in the construction and service sectors, including opportunities for youth and Westbank First Nation members.
- Spin-off economic benefits related to construction and ongoing operation of the resort.
- Potential creation of a new water source to support development of Upper Glenrosa/ Crystal Mountain lands.
- Enhanced recreational facilities will improve the quality of life of existing residents which will assist in retaining and attracting a quality workforce.

The Westbank and District Chamber of Commerce is confident that all technical issues related to water and infrastructure can be resolved according to both Provincial and Regional District standards.

"The aim of the Chamber is to promote social and economic prosperity within our community, says Rusty Ensign, President the Westbank Chamber of Commerce, "We believe a healthy community will make our business community stronger. Crystal's expansion into a full season resort will boost year round tourism opportunities".

The Westbank Chamber is a member of the B.C. Chamber of Commerce and it shares their philosophy of "promoting the economic, social, and civic development of the community". The Westbank Chamber through its members and successive councils promotes the Westside as a "good place to work, live and do business".

Crystal Mountain Ski and Golf Resort (Crystal) is planning an expansion to add 12 new ski lifts and an 18-hole Signature Golf Course, making the resort a year-round facility. Crystal's Expansion Plan is intended to create a four season resort for residents of Westbank and visitors to the Okanagan. "We appreciate the Chamber's support and welcome their involvement as we move forward with the Expansion Plan," said Mike Morin, general manager of Crystal Mountain.