



MEDIA RELEASE  
January 24, 2008

## **Alberta's new climate change strategy could create 'Silicon Valley' of the North**

**Calgary, AB** – The Alberta government's climate change plan released today strikes the right balance between maintaining economic growth and reducing greenhouse gas emissions over the long-term.

"This plan incorporates key elements that the Chamber has strongly advocated for – an emissions-intensity approach and a focus on investment in technology and research," says Heather Douglas, President & CEO of the Calgary Chamber of Commerce. "It recognizes that moving towards a lower emission future will require long capital investment timelines."

The Chamber believes Alberta can become the 'Silicon Valley' of innovation to address climate change.

"We can be global leaders in carbon capture and storage and clean coal technologies. Exporting these technologies would have a significant impact to reduce worldwide emissions," says Douglas.

Alberta has a unique challenge as 25 per cent of the economy is carbon energy dependent, and 70 per cent of electricity generation is coal-fired.

"Industry is doing their part," says Douglas. "The Chamber is pleased to see that consumer behaviour is now a big part of the greenhouse gas reduction strategy. Energy efficiency and conservation are areas where we can all make a difference."

The Chamber is concerned however, with the evolving patchwork of provincial and federal climate change policies that currently exist. Chamber members are looking for harmonization to ensure compliance costs are minimized.

"Alberta's oil & gas industry is already under tremendous pressure with a new royalty regime, a high Canadian dollar, and increasing costs due to climate change regulation. The Calgary Chamber of Commerce urges government to move cautiously so as to not jeopardize the main driver of our economy."

### **About The Chamber:**

The Calgary Chamber of Commerce is a volunteer driven, not-for-profit, and non-partisan advocacy group whose mission is to lead and serve the Calgary business community, valuing its diversity.

On critical and emerging issues in public policy, the Chamber acts as the leading forum for debate, and advocates public policy solutions that improve the business climate on behalf of our members.

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