



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Kelowna Chamber reacts to Supreme Court of Canada's R v Comeau Decision**

*Kelowna:* The Kelowna Chamber of Commerce has joined the Canadian Chamber and other business organizations in expressing disappointment in the Supreme Court's April 19 decision on R v Comeau.

"We appreciate the importance of the case and understand the decision but see it as a missed opportunity to take an historic step toward freer interprovincial trade," said Carmen Sparg, Kelowna Chamber President. "On the plus side, it reinforces the need for provincial leaders to work together on legislative changes to remove existing trade barriers that are impeding economic growth across the country."

The Kelowna Chamber of Commerce was monitoring the Supreme Court case closely because of the potential impact to local wine producers. The decision also brings greater importance to the Chamber's efforts to seek provincial and federal action to reduce interprovincial trade barriers, something that is the focus of a policy resolution the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce will table at the BC Chamber AGM next month in Kamloops.

"We are pleased to continue to stress with all levels of government the importance of freer trade across the country, particularly in light of what seems to be growing protectionism in the United States and elsewhere," said Sparg. "We are an export nation and the last thing we need is to be fighting among ourselves. We instead should be calling on our provincial leaders to focus on building bridges of cooperation rather than threatening to put up more trade barriers."

The Chamber's policy "Interprovincial Trade Barrier Reform: Beer and Wine Industries" calls on the provincial government to: (1) continue to be at the forefront in leading the charge to abolish barriers to interprovincial trade in wine, beer and spirits; and (2) continue to persuade and assist other provinces and the Federal government to remove barriers to interprovincial trade in wine, beer and spirits.

The policy is one of six for which the Kelowna Chamber will advocate at the BC Chamber AGM scheduled May 23-26 in Kamloops.

#### ***For more information:***

Carmen Sparg, President  
[carmensparg@live.com](mailto:carmensparg@live.com)  
250-859-0547

Dan Rogers, Executive Director  
[dan@kelownachamber.org](mailto:dan@kelownachamber.org)  
250-469-7356

*The Kelowna Chamber of Commerce acts as a single powerful voice for its 1200+ members and their 25,000+ employees. The Chamber provides a cohesive business network for members to expand business contacts, value-added benefits, programs and services that go straight to the bottom line.*

---

*We help grow the people who power Kelowna*