



For Immediate Release  
15 February 2005

## **GOOD NEWS BUDGET FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA, BC HOTEL INDUSTRY**

**Vancouver** – The British Columbia and Yukon Hotels' Association today announced its support of the new provincial budget.

"This government has delivered another progressive budget," said Craig Norris-Jones, Board Chair of the BC & Yukon Hotels' Association and General Manager of the Coast Plaza Hotel & Suites @ Stanley Park. "The budget outlines money for new and existing programs, debt reduction and tax cuts, and is reflective of a government that understands the importance of balanced fiscal management."

BCYHA Director Earl Wilde, and President of the Victoria Regent Hotel Ltd. attended the Budget Lock-Up with Ministry of Finance Officials in Victoria on Tuesday. "This budget represents a turning point in British Columbia's history," said Wilde. "After several years of managing fiscal challenges, the government has created a stable economic foundation and our province is poised for strong growth which is vital for a vibrant hotel industry."

Headquartered in Vancouver, the BCYHA is dedicated to improving and growing the tourism and hospitality industry within British Columbia and the Yukon. With 580 hotel members and nearly 200 affiliate members, it represents an industry with revenue in excess of \$3.1 billion, 48,000 rooms and more than 45,000 employees. A significant component of BC's \$9.3 billion tourism trade with member representation in almost every community throughout BC and the Yukon gives the association a strong voice at all levels of government. BCYHA members have invested heavily into their communities and as a result, are integral partners in steering the future development of the province and territory.

- 30 -

Contact: Mr. Ashley Haslett  
Communications Manager  
BC & Yukon Hotels' Association  
604-443-4751