

News Release

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Catalyst Applauds Government's Decision to Cut PST on Electricity in 2017 Budget Update

Richmond, (BC) – Catalyst applauds the government's commitment to eliminate the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) on electricity for commercial and industrial users in its 2017 budget update, which will assist in protecting jobs in British Columbia's pulp and paper sector, says Len Posyniak, Senior Vice President, Human Resources & Corporate Services.

Effective this fall, the PST on electricity for commercial and industrial users will be reduced from 7% to 3.5%. On April 1, 2019, electricity for commercial and industrial users will be fully exempt from the PST.

British Columbia's thermo-mechanical pulp and paper sector supports 5,600 direct and indirect jobs across the province, generating about \$250 million in annual revenue for governments. In B.C., Catalyst owns and operates pulp and paper mills in Powell River, Port Alberni and Crofton, a distribution centre in Surrey, and is headquartered in Richmond.

"Catalyst wants to thank the government for recognizing the importance of the pulp and paper sector to B.C.'s economy," says Mr. Posyniak. "The elimination of this tax will help industry in B.C. improve its competitiveness.

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About Catalyst Paper

Catalyst Paper manufactures diverse papers such as coated freesheet, coated one side (C1S), flexible and industrial packaging, food service, coated and uncoated groundwood, newsprint, directory, as well as market pulp. Customers include retailers, publishers and commercial printers in North America, Latin America, the Pacific Rim and Europe. With five mills across North America, Catalyst has annual production capacity of 2.3 million tonnes. Catalyst is headquartered in Richmond, British Columbia, Canada, and has been ranked by Corporate Knights magazine for the 11th consecutive year as one of the 50 Best Corporate Citizens in Canada.

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