

What Consultants should know about TILMA?

TILMA, which stands for Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement, is a joint agreement between British Columbia and Alberta. In the context of TILMA, the Ministry is revising its consultant registration and selection system for compliance to the new rules. Starting April 1, 2009, the RISP consultant registry will no longer use geographical preference or a rotational system when selecting consultants located in British Columbia versus Alberta for consulting work estimated at more than \$75,000 on Ministry projects.

After March 31, 2009, for RISP consulting work greater than \$75,000 and less than \$ 1 Million, the consultant registry system will incorporate an on-line RFEI process for short listing firms that will be invited to respond to an RFP.

Currently registered offices:

If your current registration data in RISP is not accurate, you should make the appropriate changes and re-submit for adjudication. Offices that have out-of-date or inaccurate registration information in RISP may not be eligible to participate in the selection process.

Offices currently not registered in RISP:

If your firm has offices in British Columbia and/or Alberta and wishes to provide engineering, technical and environmental consulting advice and services on projects undertaken by the British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, you should first register your offices in the RISP consultant registry. RISP is used to select consultants for engineering, technical and environmental contracts estimated at less than \$1 Million. For all other contract work procurement, you should visit the BC Bid Web page on the BC Government Internet site.

There will still be the requirements for engineers to be registered to practice in their respective professional specialty and for businesses to be listed in the corporate registry.

More on TILMA:

For more information on the trade agreement with Alberta, visit the following Web site: http://www.gov.bc.ca/ecdev/popt/media_room/bc_ab_trade_investment_mobility_agreement.htm

Communication Plan:

In February and March 2009, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure will be hosting several workshops describing to consultants and Ministry staff the consultant contract and selection processes and how these are modified to comply with TILMA. Dates and locations of the workshops will be posted on the RISP Web site and notices will be sent to registered offices in January.