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**MONCTON (NEW BRUNSWICK)- April 9, 2015 –*The Greater Moncton Chamber of Commerce (GMCC) anxiously awaits news from the upcoming federal budget***

Federal Finance Minister Joe Oliver ramps up to present the budget on April 21. The Greater Moncton Chamber of Commerce is hopeful the budget will bring positive news and a renewed sense of economic prosperity.

The federal budget has been delayed by a few months as the government assessed the implications of the fall in oil prices and its instability on the Canadian economy. However, the New Brunswick government as well as several other provinces across the country, forged ahead last week with their projections and laid out their fiscal plans.

“We are still hopeful that there will be some sort of announcement as a follow up to the provincial budget about the moratorium on fracturing,” says CEO, Carol O’Reilly. “We know that this could really play an integral role and give us the boost our economy needs.”

The Canadian Chamber recently organized a tour to Calgary and Fort McMurray for chamber of commerce representatives such as our own CEO, Carol O’Reilly to see first-hand what the oil sector is all about and to gain a better understanding of the forces, individuals and technologies shaping the oil and gas sector.

“We can’t stress enough how important we think it is to be a part of Canada’s Resource Cities initiative,” says O’Reilly. “Chambers of Commerce from across Canada were in Fort Mac to see and get an appreciation for the scope of the oil sands and we learned that oil sands producers and a highly regulated industry.”

The oil and gas industry is currently at the heart of the national debate of several key issues including environmental protection, adding value to our resources, and economic development among others.

The sector also faces many of the same challenges and obstacles as other natural resource producing regions, meaning that the approaches and solutions applied in this sector could offer insight for other areas of the country engaged in mining, forestry or other types of resource production.

The Canada's Resource Cities is an initiative supporting chambers to gain awareness of the importance of natural resources to Canadian cities.

Although cities are often far removed from mine sites, forests, power plants or oil rigs, they are at the heart of Canada's resource sector. Not only do they act as hubs for essential goods and services for natural resources – such as finance, engineering or machinery – cities are also at the centre of innovation for the forest, mining, agriculture and energy industries.

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***The Greater Moncton Chamber of Commerce is the voice of the business community for more than 825 businesses representing more than 35, 000 members in Moncton, Dieppe and Riverview and the vicinity.***

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