

1994 BILL 211

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Second Session, 23rd Legislature, 43 Elizabeth II

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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

# **BILL 211**

## **ECONOMIC STRATEGY ACT**

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MR. BRUSEKER

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First Reading .....

Second Reading .....

Committee of the Whole .....

Third Reading .....

Royal Assent .....

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*Bill 211*  
*Mr. Bruseker*

## **BILL 211**

1994

### **ECONOMIC STRATEGY ACT**

*(Assented to , 1994)*

HER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the  
Legislative Assembly of Alberta, enacts as follows:

**1** The purpose of this Act is to provide for a means by which the  
Government, working with private enterprises, industry associations  
and others, can encourage cooperative strategies to promote  
industrial competitiveness.

**Definitions**

**2** In this Act,

- (a) "flexible networks" means groups of three or more private  
sector enterprises working cooperatively to manufacture,  
sell or market products, develop technologies or create or  
disseminate information;
- (b) "key industries" means traded sector industries that make  
up a major contribution to the economy of Alberta,  
including but not limited to petroleum products, high  
technology, tourism, forest products, agricultural products,  
biotechnology, computers and software, and  
environmental services;
- (c) "Minister" means the Minister of Economic Development  
and Tourism;
- (d) "network brokers" means persons who are trained to assist  
private sector enterprises to form flexible networks and

make other similar efforts to provide for joint manufacturing, marketing, technology development, information dissemination and other activities;

**Industry  
development  
activities**

**3** For key industries, the Minister shall undertake a program of key industry development activities which may include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

- (a) focus groups and other meetings and related studies to identify issues of common concern within an industry;
- (b) support for formation of industry associations, publications of association directories and related efforts to create or expand the activities of industry associations;
- (c) helping establish research consortia;
- (d) joint training and education programs and curricula related to the specific needs of Alberta industries;
- (e) cooperative market development activities;
- (f) analysis of the need, feasibility and cost for establishing product certification and testing facilities and services;
- (g) providing for methods of electronic communication and information dissemination among enterprises and groups of enterprises to facilitate network activity.

**Network Broker  
Training Program**

**4** The Minister shall develop a network broker training program designed to provide persons with the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to assist private enterprises in the formation of flexible networks.

**5** The Minister shall annually prepare and lay before the Legislative Assembly a report on options and opportunities to:

- (a) adopt or modify government policies to assist industry to become more competitive, and
- (b) modify economic development programs to better meet the needs of key Alberta industries.

**6(1)** The Minister shall annually prepare and lay before the

Legislative Assembly a report which objectively measures the competitiveness of Alberta's industries.

(2) The report shall include such factors that reasonably indicate how Alberta's main industries compare with the best enterprises in the world in the same industries and may include such factors as value added per worker hour, product quality, worker involvement and other appropriate factors to determine benchmarks for industries in Alberta.

Awards program

7 The Minister shall develop an awards program to identify and recognize flexible networks that have developed and effectively employ high performance standards.

Free trade  
agreement

8 In order to take maximum advantage of the North American Free Trade Agreement, the Minister shall pursue trade opportunities with Mexico by such means as he sees fit including:

- (a) the facilitation of bilateral trade seminars with Mexican enterprises,
- (b) the active promotion and facilitation of twinning between Alberta cities and towns and appropriate Mexican counterparts, and
- (c) the facilitation of the creation of flexible networks which include Mexican firms.

Review

9(1) Within three years from the date this Act comes into force, the Minister shall review and prepare a report on the results of this Act to determine whether the strategies it contains continue to be consistent with the objectives of Alberta's economic development and diversification strategy and will table a report of this analysis before the Legislative Assembly.

(2) The Minister shall lay a copy of the report referred to in subsection (1) before the Legislative Assembly