

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Expanded Service BC hours improves access for Vernon residents

VERNON – Service BC will test expanded office hours at its Vernon location in response to requests from local residents.

This pilot project will cut red tape by improving flexibility and access to government services for citizens and businesses.

Currently, the Service BC office in Vernon is open Monday to Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Starting Monday, Jan. 4, 2016, the office will be open one hour later until 5:30 p.m. When this pilot ends, it is possible that the expanded hours will be made permanent in Vernon and extended to Service BC locations in other British Columbia communities, depending on user demand.

Service BC delivers hundreds of government services and programs in person, online and over the phone to B.C. residents, businesses and visitors.

#### Quotes:

# Coralee Oakes, Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction and Minister Responsible for the Liquor Distribution Branch –

"This pilot project is an excellent example of how the Province is cutting red tape and improving service delivery to save people time and increase convenience. Expanding hours at the Vernon Service BC centre will offer residents easier and faster access to government services."

#### Eric Foster, MLA for Vernon-Monashee-

"We're listening to British Columbians and delivering. We heard people wanted greater access to services and these expanded hours at the Vernon Service BC centre will enhance service delivery and cut red tape. Shorter wait times and increased flexibility is always great news for busy local residents."

#### Quick Facts:

- The Service BC centre in Vernon is located at 3201-30 St. The phone number is 250 549-5511.
- There are currently 62 Service BC offices in British Columbia.

#### Learn More:

About Service BC:

http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministriesorganizations/ministries/technology-innovation-and-citizens-services/servicebc

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