



## **B.C., Ontario will share top spot in growth**

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Ontario's battered economy will share top spot with British Columbia in Canadian economic growth this year, as labour markets continue their recovery, consumers begin spending on big-ticket items again and the auto sector rebounds, the Conference Board of Canada said Monday. In its Canadian Provincial Outlook: Spring 2010, the board says Ontario's economy will expand at 3.8 per cent this year, a rate matched only by that forecast for B.C.

"There are clear signs of economic recovery from coast to coast," said Marie-Christine Bernard, associate director of provincial forecasting. "The improved domestic economies of Ontario and B.C., along with increased demand from the United States, will support a strong rebound in both provinces.

"However the rebound will be gradual for most other provinces, spreading over the next two years," Bernard said.

B.C.'s economy will benefit from the one-time Olympics boost, as well as a recovery in forestry, manufacturing and construction sectors. But with the Olympics out of the way, and housing growth expected to ease, growth will slow to 2.8 per cent in 2011, the board adds:

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