

COALITION OF BC BUSINESSES

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Coalition successful in defeating federal bill to ban replacement workers

Provincial government encouraged to turf BC's replacement worker ban

Vancouver, BC (March 21, 2007) – The Coalition of BC Businesses today said it was relieved that the House of Commons defeated a private-members bill that would ban the use of replacement workers during strikes or walk-outs in federally-regulated industries.

The Coalition helped to defeat *Bill C-257: An Act to amend the Canada Labour Code* in a lobbying effort in Ottawa that included submissions and presentations before the Federal Standing Committee on Human Resources and individual Members of Parliament.

“Today’s defeat of Bill C-257 provides relief to small and medium-sized businesses and all Canadians who depend on the delivery of goods and services and the stability of labour-management relations,” said John Winter, Chair of the Coalition of BC Businesses.

In its presentations in Ottawa, the Coalition argued that passage of Bill C-257 would risk the delivery of critical services, harm the provincial and federal economies and negatively affect third party businesses that are dependent on federally-regulated industries.

“Now that the bill is defeated, Canadians and third party businesses who rely on a daily basis on rail transportation of goods, banking services and telecommunications will no longer have to fear that a federal labour dispute will destabilize these businesses and services,” said Winter.

Winter noted that British Columbia’s replacement worker legislation should be reconsidered as it was used during public consultations to support Bill C-257.

“In light of the federal rejection of replacement worker legislation, the provincial government should take a hard look at how BC’s replacement worker ban hurts BC businesses and the customers that depend on those services.”

The Coalition of BC Businesses represents the voice of over 50,000 small and medium-sized businesses in the development of British Columbia's labour and employment policies.

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