

# COALITION OF BC BUSINESSES

---

913 10<sup>th</sup> Street, New Westminster, BC V3M 4A5

Telephone: 604-682-8366 / Fax: 604-525-1409

*www.labourpolicies.com*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 14, 2003**

## **Ferry Workers' Union Playing Politics with Olympics – Coalition of BC Businesses**

VANCOUVER – The Coalition of BC Businesses has criticized the BC Ferry & Marine Workers' Union for writing to the International Olympic Committee in an attempt to garner publicity.

"We are appalled that the ferry workers union would play politics with the Olympics," said Philip Hochstein, Chair of the Coalition of BC Businesses. "The Olympics will bring a needed boost to small businesses in this province, and we don't think the ferry workers' union has any place in writing to the IOC to further its own ends."

Hochstein said that the letter, written by the president of the BC Ferry & Marine Workers' Union, shows that the union does not care who it hurts during its labour dispute. The Coalition has responded with a letter assuring the IOC that the unions' letter was simply a ploy to try to put pressure on the government and does not reflect the feelings of the province at large.

"It's bad enough that the ferry workers' union has threatened to cut off Island communities, but now they appear to want to embarrass the entire province in front of the IOC," said Hochstein. "The union should focus on its own issues and not use the 2010 Olympic Games for a publicity stunt."

Hochstein said small businesses depend on the ferry service to move people and goods between Vancouver Island and the Mainland, and that the BC government should not allow the BC Ferry & Marine Workers' Union to hold communities hostage. Hochstein said the ferry service is considered a part of the provincial transportation system and urged the provincial government to legislate against any labour disruption of ferry service.

"The ferry service is essential to the small business community," said Hochstein.

The Coalition of BC Businesses has been a big supporter of the 2010 Olympic Games. According to the Coalition, the Games will create thousands of jobs for all employees, union or not, and will provide an enormous benefit to the BC labour and business community.

The Coalition of BC Businesses speaks for organizations representing over 50,000 small and medium-sized businesses active in all sectors of BC's economy. The Coalition's focus is the development of labour policies that will foster a positive relationship between employers and employees and a positive climate for new economic growth, opportunities and jobs.