

Letter to the Editor
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Marjorie Griffin Cohen ("Labour policies have dramatic influence on wage gap," Issues & Ideas, May 22) would liken B.C. working conditions to the early Industrial Age or the Roman salt mines. The needs of individual employees, however, are lost in her concern over the plight of big unions.

The B.C. government should be congratulated for its Labour Code changes in 2002 that boosted small-business confidence and put employee rights at the heart of the labour relations process. Employees were officially recognized as an equal party to unions and employers, as they should be.

Today's skills and labour shortages have further enhanced the bargaining position of employees. Small-business employers are rewarding talented employees with workplace flexibility and competitive benefits packages. The formula seems to be working.

Today, people are voting with their feet and moving to B.C. to find work. Balanced labour laws that accommodate employee choice and opportunity have not hindered, but helped, to spur record-breaking investment, economic development and job creation in this province.

John Winter
Chair, Coalition of BC Businesses