

Coalition of BC Businesses

For Immediate Release

Labour shortages are harming BC's small businesses and communities

New Coalition report recommends strategies to shore up labour supply and skills shortages

Vancouver, BC (June 26, 2007) – The Coalition of BC Businesses today released a report to government identifying how labour and skills shortages are harming BC's small businesses and communities.

"The perfect storm of an aging workforce, a declining pool of younger workers, stiff international competition for talent, and strong economic growth has increased skills gaps in BC," said John Winter, Chair of the Coalition of BC Businesses.

"Without preemptive action, the negative impact of the skills and labour shortage on individual small businesses will continue to take its toll on BC's economy and communities."

The report - [Labour Supply Strategies for Small Businesses in BC](#) – identifies gaps in government programs to assist small and medium-sized businesses with respect to labour and skills shortages, and proposes concrete recommendations to mitigate these challenges.

Key recommendations include: expanding immigration as a key part of BC's economic plan, better utilizing existing and emerging labour force groups and expanding the training tax credit to non-apprenticeship occupations.

"Skills and labour shortages have become the number one economic issue for BC businesses," said Winter. "With this report, we encourage the Federal Government, the BC Government, small business associations and other British Columbia stakeholders to work together to take action on the labour supply issue."

To view the report, visit: www.coalitionbcbusiness.ca/pdf/LabourSupplyReport_Jun07.pdf

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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