

COALITION OF BC BUSINESSES

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February 25, 2010

Rick Dykstra, MP
Parliamentary Secretary
Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism
254 West Block
Parliament of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Dykstra:

Thank you and Mr. Brent Rathgeber, MP, for taking the time to meet and consult with members of the Coalition of BC Businesses on February 22, 2010 in Vancouver. Although I was unable to attend the meeting, the Coalition members present valued the opportunity to meet and discuss our support for Canada's Temporary Foreign Worker program.

The Coalition of BC Businesses is made up of business associations representing over 50,000 small and medium-sized business employers active in all sectors of B.C.'s diverse economy in communities throughout the province. The Coalition's focus is the development of labour and employment policies that will help foster a positive relationship between employers and employees and a climate for new economic growth, opportunities and jobs.

Although the national and B.C. economies are facing challenging times, several B.C. industries are finding it increasingly difficult to fill positions with unskilled labour. Demographic shifts in the coming years will see a rapid decline in our domestic workforce, stretching the ability of B.C. employers to meet employment needs.

Member Associations

Alliance of Beverage
Licensees BC

BC Hotel Association

BC Chamber of
Commerce

BC Real Estate Association

BC Restaurant and
Foodservices Association

Building Owners &
Managers Association

Building Supply Dealers
Association

Canadian Council of
Grocery Distributors

Canadian Home Builders'
Association – BC

Canadian Restaurant and
Foodservices Association

Canadian Federation of
Independent Grocers

Independent Contractors
& Businesses Association

Insurance Brokers
Association of BC

New Car Dealers
Association of BC

Retail Council of Canada

Shelfspace

Western Convenience
Stores Association

Western Silvicultural
Contractors' Association

To enhance productivity and economic growth, the Coalition supports the continued expansion and streamlining of the Temporary Foreign Worker program to expedite access of B.C. employers to foreign labour pools.

We hope to work with your Ministry and the Parliamentary Committee to identify solutions and opportunities to expand and steadily improve the program.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call (604.683.0700 ext.110). Thank you.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Winter', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

John Winter, Chair

CC: Brent Rathgeber, MP, Edmonton-St. Albert