

COALITION OF BC BUSINESSES

NEWS RELEASE

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Small businesses concerned that NDP platform lacks specifics on labour policy

VANCOUVER – The Coalition of B.C. Businesses says the NDP’s policy platform fails to spell out how the NDP would change labour and employment law in B.C., despite public statements by NDP leader Carol James that changes are necessary.

“The NDP platform is not going to ease the anxiety of small and family-owned businesses around NDP labour policy,” said Kevin Evans, Chair of the Coalition of B.C. Businesses. “It is curious and disappointing that the NDP has chosen to put forward a policy platform that is silent on such a key area of public policy in B.C. It only fuels concern that the NDP has an agenda to roll back the clock on labour and employment law reforms that were not supported by organized labour.”

Evans said that the previous NDP administrations in the 1990s brought in labour and employment standards rules that were unbalanced and inflexible. NDP leader Carole James recently stated that the current labour laws are biased and in need of change. However, she has said discussion on the specific changes she has in mind will have to wait until after the election.

“Overall, the NDP’s platform fails to recognize that small businesses are beginning to thrive again in B.C. today,” said Evans. “The platform takes a very negative view of the current state of the economy, and refuses to acknowledge that an improved business climate since 2001 has benefited small and family-owned businesses.”

The Coalition of BC Businesses speaks for organizations representing over 50,000 small and family-owned businesses active in all sectors of B.C.’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.

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