

COALITION OF BC BUSINESSES

NEWS RELEASE

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Small Businesses say job numbers show government policies working Less red tape, balanced labour laws and lower taxes spurring job growth

VANCOUVER – The Coalition of B.C. Businesses said today's job numbers from Statistics Canada provide compelling evidence that the government's economic policies are working and benefiting more B.C. families than ever before.

"Provincial government policies since 2001 have created a business climate where small businesses are prospering and creating jobs," said Kevin Evans, Chair of the Coalition of B.C. Businesses. "This government lowered taxes, reduced red tape and brought balance back to our labour laws—the result is the lowest unemployment numbers in nearly a quarter of a century."

Evans said small businesses are the biggest private sector job creators in the province, and government policies have an enormous impact on their ability to create new jobs.

"We have heard some suggest that B.C.'s growth is solely due to high commodity prices and low interest rates, but when you ask small businesses they'll tell you that without positive government policies they would not be prospering to the extent we are seeing today," he said.

Evans said that B.C. enjoyed high commodity prices in the 1990s, but not the current level of job creation, because small businesses were hampered by over-regulation, high taxes and unbalanced labour laws.

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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