

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mark von Schellwitz appointed new Chair of the Coalition of BC Businesses

Vancouver (June 17, 2010) –The Coalition of BC Businesses today announced the appointment of its new Chair, Mark von Schellwitz and its Vice Chair, James Chase. As a 15-year member of the Coalition, Mr. von Schellwitz is Vice President - Western Canada for the Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Association. James Chase, the incoming Vice Chair, is CEO of the British Columbia Hotel Association. Mr. von Schellwitz replaces Max Logan, former BC Director of Retail Council of Canada and John Winter, President and CEO of the BC Chamber of Commerce, who served as Coalition Chair since 2007.

"I would like to thank Max Logan for temporarily filling in as Coalition Chair and John Winter for his leadership, time and commitment in growing the Coalition and advancing its labour and employment mandate over the past three years," said von Schellwitz. "We look forward to working with the Premier and the BC government on some of the more challenging issues facing the small business community, including access to labour, balanced labour laws, and employment policies that promote investment and job creation."

Mr. von Schellwitz is joined by the existing members of the Coalition of BC Businesses' Strategy Group:

- James Chase, CEO, BC Hotel Association
- John Winter, President and CEO, BC Chamber of Commerce
- Kim Haakstad, Executive Director, Alliance of Beverage Licensees - BC
- Philip Hochstein, President, Independent Contractors & Businesses Association of BC
- Allen Langdon, Vice President, Western Canada, Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors
- Mark Startup, President & CEO, Shelfspace
- Paul LaBranche, Executive Vice President, Building Owners and Managers Association

The Coalition of BC Businesses (coalitionbcbusiness.ca) represents 18 BC business associations and over 50,000 small and medium-sized businesses active in all sectors of BC's diverse economy. The Coalition's principal 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.

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