

# COALITION OF BC BUSINESSES

## Advancing Labour Policies that Work

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Coalition of BC Businesses**

**12 May 2021**

### **Coalition of BC Businesses Supports COVID Sick Leave But Industry should not bear the cost.**

**VANCOUVER, BC.** “The Coalition of BC Businesses is in favour of a temporary sick leave program that supports workers and helps maintain a safe workplace, but companies should not be asked to shoulder the financial burden resulting from a public health pandemic,” said Andrew Wynn-Williams, Chair of the Coalition and Divisional VP for BC of Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CME). “Other jurisdictions are covering the full cost of this measure and the Province of BC should do the same.”

Wynn-Williams was responding to legislation introduced today by the Honourable Harry Bains, Minister of Labour to provide paid Covid sick leave for workers. The new legislation provides for three days paid sick leave with up to \$200 per day refundable to the employer.

“Cashflow is a significant issue for industries hit hard by the pandemic.” said Wynn-Williams. “This is going to be a challenging additional cost for them, even for a short period of time. Government needs to ensure the refund process is rapid and seamless.”

Of much greater concern to the Coalition is the second element of the legislation that enshrines paid sick leave as a permanent element of the Employment Standards Act. “The pandemic should not be used as cover to enact permanent measures that have long term implications for employers. This measure comes as a surprise to the small business community. Legislating permanent sick leave provisions without consultation or warning should not be tied to this important pandemic related measure.”

#### **About the Coalition of BC Businesses**

The Coalition of BC Businesses is an alliance of business and trade associations that collectively represent over 100,000 small and medium-sized businesses in BC. We’re here to support businesses as we embrace the changing world of work.

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