

INTRODUCTION OF BILL 10 AND UNION CERTIFICATION



Image Source: MediaLab

May 19, 2022

Abbotsford, B.C. - Business associations and leaders across the province have been advocating against the provincial government's introduction of legislation that removes the secret ballot from voting on joining a union. In a letter this month to the Premier of BC, 23 organizations and their collective membership wrote to express dismay with the changes the government has proposed to the certification provisions of the Labour Relations Code ("the Code").

The letter includes warnings that these changes will have economic repercussions across the province as businesses work to recover from the impacts of COVID-19. They will also needlessly destabilize the labour relations balance in British Columbia. Furthermore, concern was expressed that there has been no consultation and that the action of the government calls into question its commitment to open and transparent consultation. Bill 10 legislation goes against the majority recommendation of the 2018 Section 3 Labour Relations Code Panel Review Report, chaired by Michael Fleming.

The letter also states that, "the secret ballot is a fundamental component of our democratic system and a standard that should apply in workplaces just as it does in other facets of public life. Workers in British Columbia have a right to join a union and our organizations believe in and respect the collective bargaining process. Workers also have the right to make this decision in a manner that is free from influence. The secret ballot is essential to protecting that right. Our view, expressed to your government in the past, is that the province, employers, organized labour and workers, do not benefit from see-saw labour regimes as governments inevitably shift over time. British Columbia needs labour stability as

we turn our attention to recovery from the pandemic."

"The Labour Relations Code and the Charter of Rights uphold the right for workers to choose union representation...Fundamentally, Bill 10 weakens the democratic rights of workers and undercuts fairness, clarity and certainty for workers and employers alike. At a time when the government is seeking to create a more inclusive economy, implementing changes as proposed in Bill 10 will foster divisiveness within the workplace at a time when we all need to be focusing on recovery and growing our economy for the benefit of all British Columbians. We call on the government to withdraw Bill 10 and to undertake proper consultations with stakeholders."

A joint industry statement was made as well last month in April, by the BC Chamber of Commerce, BC Business Council, Canadian Federation of Independent Business, Greater Vancouver Board of Trade and Surrey Board of Trade:

The following associations are surprised by the introduction of amendments to Bill 10 by the BC government, which proposes substantive change to the Labour Relations Code without any meaningful consultation with employers, and at a time when many businesses are still reeling from the pandemic.

The right to choose union representation is guaranteed through legislation. The method of how workers choose to decide who should represent them is critical. Fundamentally, Bill 10 significantly weakens the democratic right for workers to exercise choice through a secret ballot. These changes also follow significant changes to the Labour Relations Code in 2019.

We are disappointed that the Minister did not fulfill his 2022 mandate letter responsibility to "create new consultative mechanisms to engage employer and worker representatives in consideration of any changes proposed to workplace legislation to ensure the widest possible support."

We call on the government to pause the legislative process and engage in a fulsome and proper consultation with employers.

Source: <https://bcchamber.org/news/>

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CEO'S MESSAGE

Economic Development Matters

One of the reasons Chambers of Commerce exist is of course to serve our member businesses but also, we have a broader mandate to support the local economy and have an interest in the business environment in our City. A healthy local economy means more businesses, greater competitiveness, community building and prosperity. It means more variety and diversity of business more connections and relationships that help us grow and creates the standard of living that we strive towards and are fortunate to enjoy.

Each of these goals are worth the time and commitment it takes to get there, and your local Chamber and staff team are motivated to support because economic development matters. Business growth is one of our core values at the Chamber.

Last week was in fact was Economic Development Week. During this week, communities across North America celebrated and recognized the contributions made by professional economic developers

to create more economically vibrant and livable communities.

Created in 2016 by International Economic Development Council (IEDC), the largest international professional trade association for economic developers, Economic Development Week aims to increase awareness for local programs that create jobs, advance career development opportunities, and improve the quality of life in communities everywhere.

"Economic developers play essential roles in promoting the economic health and vitality of their communities — a fact that has only been proven further by the events of the past two years," says IEDC President & CEO Nathan Ohle. Your Chamber played a critical role during the pandemic and the disastrous floods in Abbotsford last year in November 2021, gaining national level recognition through the Abbotsford Business Community Coalition and a 2022 BC Economic Development Award in Economic Resiliency for our work with the



Katerina Anastasiadis
CEO

Abbotsford Disaster Relief Fund. We recognize our role as business leaders especially in times of crisis to support economic resiliency and to protect what our community has built, and we are happy to do it!

Economic development truly matters because of what it means to people, families, and our communities. Let's reflect on Economic Development and work together to support it, value it and take advantage of all the benefits it brings. Let's continue to support the entrepreneurs and businesses around us that continue to evolve and show us new ways of doing things where we eat, live, work and play.

NEW MEMBERS:

Aman Sanghera, Personal Real Estate Corporation
amansells.ca

The Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce is the voice of business for Abbotsford.
Visit our website to learn how you can become a Chamber member today!
abbotsfordchamber.com

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesday, May 25

Canada's Agriculture Hub – An Economic Impact Analysis of Agriculture in Abbotsford
Guest Speaker Minister Lana Popham
Sandman Hotel & Suites
12:30pm – 2:30pm

Thursday, May 26

Business After Business Night at the Theatre
Gallery 7 Theatre
5:10pm – 10:00pm

Saturday, June 4

Fraser Valley Bandits Multi-Chamber Networking Event
Langley Events Centre
1:00pm – 4:00pm

Friday, June 17

Agriculture Bus Tour
Tour starts and ends at Sevenoaks Shopping Centre
8:00am – 3:30pm

For more information and registration go to: abbotsfordchamber.com/events



Canada's Agriculture Hub – An Economic Analysis of Agriculture in Abbotsford

Join Us!

Wednesday, May 25th, 2022
Sandman Hotel & Suites
12:30 pm to 2:20 pm



Special Guest Speaker:
Honourable Lana Popham
Minister of Agriculture



Chamber to launch long awaited Agriculture in Abbotsford economic impact report!

The Chamber is pleased to announce that on May 25th 2022 we will be hosting a special panel discussion luncheon with keynote speaker the Hon. Lana Popham, BC Minister of Agriculture to launch the Chamber's report, "Canada's Agriculture Hub - An Economic Impact Analysis of Agriculture in Abbotsford". The report is an update to the highly successful, nationally profiled and referenced, "The Economic Impact Of Agriculture In Abbotsford" 2008 Study.

This new and latest edition initiative was lead by the Chamber's Agriculture Committee and supporting partners: The City of Abbotsford, BC Ministry of Agriculture, University of the Fraser Valley and University of British Columbia as well as TD Bank.

Come hear about how rapidly this key economic driving sector has grown in Abbotsford and how our City and region continues to be the leading agricultural producing area in all of Canada and top in North America. Our panel discussion will talk about what the findings mean for businesses our farmers and opportunities for the future. The importance of this sector can not be understated and what it contributes to food security and economic resiliency is clear to see.

Register soon because this is one that will sell out!

Please go to the Chamber's website
www.abbotsfordchamber.com/events.

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