
NEWS RELEASE

BC Chamber calls on political candidates to talk tax

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vancouver, October 21, 2014 – As B.C. celebrates Small Business Week 2014 (Oct. 20 – 24) amidst municipal political campaigns, the BC Chamber of Commerce is calling on candidates to voice their views on business property tax.

“Local governments have a tremendous opportunity to create business-friendly communities that foster jobs for everyone,” said John Winter, president and CEO of the BC Chamber of Commerce. “But, conversely, the wrong leadership can deaden a local economy and chase businesses out of town. That’s why B.C.’s Chambers are asking municipal political candidates to mark Small Business Week by articulating their plans for business property taxes.”

Key ways local politicians can support small businesses on the tax front include:

- Committing to spending restraint to lower the general tax burden; and
- Committing to a low business tax multiplier (the measure of the additional tax burden that businesses pay, beyond the residential rate)

Winter said that while some B.C. municipalities have made strides in recent years on lowering business tax multipliers, B.C.’s worst-offending communities are still exacting four or five times more tax from small businesses than they would from residents on an equal-sized property.

“It’s well known that businesses don’t use anywhere near this proportion of municipal services,” Winter said. “These high tax burdens on small businesses aren’t just unfair – they’re untenable.”

With all eyes on small businesses this week, Winter noted that it’s a great opportunity for political candidates to take a stance on the tax issues that affect this sector.

“It’s easy to pay lip service to supporting small businesses, but what this sector really needs is some tangible relief from its tax burden,” Winter said. “That’s why we’re calling on political candidates to take a stance on this issue before voters head to the polls.”

The BC Chamber is the largest and most broadly-based business organization in the province. Representing more than 125 Chambers of Commerce and 36,000 businesses of every size, sector and region of the province, the BC Chamber of Commerce is “The Voice of Business in BC.”

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