

April 17, 2019

The Honourable Harry Bains, MLA
Minister of Labour
PO Box 9064, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C., V8W 9E2

Minister Bains,

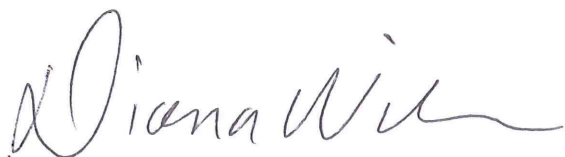
On behalf of the Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce (GVCC), I am writing to express our concerns with the proposed sick leave and statutory holiday pay policies of the B.C. Law Institute's Employment Standards Act Reform Project.

The sick leave policy proposes a move from the current 5 unpaid leave days to 10 paid sick leave days. The statutory holiday policy proposes that employees would only be required to work or earn wages on 16 of the 60 days preceding a statutory holiday to be eligible for statutory holiday pay, as opposed to the current 15 of 30 days preceding statutory holidays.

The GVCC feels that both policies would add considerable costs to the bottom line for business operators in the province, and potentially incent employers to fill positions under contract instead of hiring additional staff. These policies would also put British Columbia out of step with standards in other provinces, thus making the investment and growth of business in the province of B.C. less attractive to business owners.

Our members believe very strongly in supporting their employees but there needs to be a balance between the interests of the workforce and the responsibilities of employers. As the regulatory pressures of operating a business grow, the ability to thrive and provide employment opportunities are reduced.

The Chamber is requesting that the sick leave policy and statutory holiday pay policies remain in their current form. I encourage you to consider the concerns of small business in B.C. and provide an economic environment that allows our province to move forward.



Diana Wilson, President

Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce