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Unwelcome Changes to Foreign Workers Program



The head of the province's Employers Council says the Harper government's decision to axe a series of controversial changes made last year to the Temporary Foreign Workers Program could mean some jobs in the province will not be filled.

Employers will no longer have flexibility to set the wages for foreign labour, calling a halt to what was known as the 15 per cent rule. That rule allowed businesses to pay foreign workers up to 15 per cent below median wages, if that's what they were paying Canadians. The Conservatives are also calling a temporary halt to a program that fast-tracked the ability of some companies to bring in workers from outside Canada through what's known as an accelerated labour market opinion.

The NLEC's Richard Alexander says the changes will make it much more difficult and expensive for employers. Alexander says government should have taken aim at those abusing the program.