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BIABC URGING CONSUMERS TO RALLY AROUND LOCAL BUSINESSES

Vancouver, BC – The many challenges facing small businesses across the province have been well documented, the latest of which include the ongoing Canada Post labour dispute and the threat of significant tariffs on all exports to the United States.

However, the Business Improvement Areas of BC (BIABC)- the organization representing hundreds of thousands of merchants in more than 70 business districts across the province says there is an opportunity for consumers to convert the concern and frustration into something positive – by supporting the 13th annual BC Buy Local Week which kicks off today.

"Small and medium-sized businesses across the province are entering a critical holiday sales period," said Jeremy Heighton, BIABC President. "This is an opportunity for consumers to channel their support into something tangible, by supporting merchants in their own community, and by doing so, bolster our local and provincial economies."

"Now is the perfect time to wave that BC flag, create a swell of support for our community marketplaces and BUY LOCAL," added Heighton.

BIABC believes there is also a significant role for the provincial government to step in and use its marketing power to promote the Buy BC Program to the fullest extent.

For more information about BC Buy Local Week, visit www.bcbuylocal.com.

About BIABC:
The Business Improvement Areas of BC (BIABC) is the provincial champion of strong, vibrant, and successful downtowns, main streets, and commercial districts throughout our province. Members represent more than 70 business

districts that employ hundreds of thousands of retail, service, and office employees within defined business districts.

About LOCO BC:
LOCO BC is a non-profit organization building stronger communities through applied research and education on the importance of independent businesses in BC They engage businesses and educate consumers on the importance of supporting independent businesses, research the challenges faced by independent businesses, advocate for reducing these barriers, and work to build bridges between businesses and policymakers.

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