



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Honourable John Horgan, MLA
Premier of British Columbia
West Annex
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4

July 7, 2020

Dear Premier,

I join with people from across the province in sharing our disappointment that British Columbia's tourism industry was shut out of the June 23, 2020 Government of Canada announcement of \$46-million dollars toward supporting the tourism sector in Quebec and Atlantic Canada.

The BC Liberals have consistently brought forward the desperate calls for greater financial supports from tourism operators to you and your Tourism Minister on numerous occasions over the past months and we have yet to receive a single reply.

As you know, B.C.'s tourism industry is driven by international and out-of-province tourists. Officials in the sector are bracing for a 70 per cent decline in annual revenue and suggest it is difficult to see how local and regional tourists will fill that significant gap. Combined with over half a million British Columbians who have lost work due to the pandemic, it is clear that supports are needed to ensure the sector can survive this severe downturn.

The jobs of 130,000 tourism industry employees are expected to be lost, and these British Columbians are anxiously waiting for a government recovery plan to help them survive. To date, they are only being asked to fill out a survey. This is simply not good enough. The risk of tourism business bankruptcies, permanent closures, and more unemployment is real. The BC Liberals have hosted numerous town halls and have provided several common-sense solutions to you and your government for months now, yet there has been no progress on this important file.

Given that it appears your government is unwilling to take action yourselves, I am requesting that you immediately engage the federal government and request that British Columbia receive its fair share of tourism investment given the significant contributions made to Quebec and Atlantic Canada.

Further, on behalf of our province, I am requesting you to publicly call on Ottawa to ensure that there is equitable treatment across all regions of our country during these unprecedented times.

BC Liberal Official Opposition
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

British Columbians, and all Canadians, deserve no less.

Andrew Wilkinson
MLA, Vancouver-Quilchena
Leader of the Official Opposition

Michelle Stilwell
MLA, Parksville-Qualicum

Doug Clovechok
MLA, Columbia River-Revelstoke