



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

April 22, 2020

The Honourable Lisa Beare
Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture
Room 151 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
RE: Tourism industry recovery plan

Dear Minister Beare,

As you know, B.C.'s tourism industry is facing unprecedented hardship due to COVID-19. This summer will be especially difficult for thousands of British Columbians who rely on this thriving sector to support themselves and their families. Given that, we are focused on how to best support the industry's survival as we hear daily from constituents and local businesses understandably worried about their wellbeing.

Last week, when meeting with staff from your ministry and Destination BC CEO Marsha Walden, we were disheartened to hear of the myriad of challenges facing tourism operators throughout the province. In light of this, what is the detailed plan for the recovery of B.C.'s tourism industry? How are you planning to stimulate and protect one of the provinces most important economic drivers and employers? In addition, what is the update on the urgent request for a tourism sector representative to be included in the Premier's Economic Recovery Task Force?

The short-term forecast outlined by the BC Economic Development Association includes billions in losses for one of B.C.'s most affected industries. More needs to be done now to combat this. A concrete plan needs to be put in place to support B.C.'s tourism industry. We look forward to an update on the issues listed above.

Sincerely,

Doug Clovechok
MLA for Columbia River-Revelstoke
Opposition Co-Critic Tourism,
Arts and Culture

Michelle Stilwell
MLA for Parksville-Qualicum
Opposition Co-Critic Tourism,
Arts and Culture
2000, 2008, 2012, 2016 Paralympic Champion