



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

May 6, 2020

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

RE: *Tourism industry recovery plan update*

Dear Minister Beare,

COVID-19 has affected every sector of our economy but has had a particularly devastating impact on the tourism industry as necessary public health restrictions have shut down operations indefinitely.

Tourism is a vital economic driver throughout the province and is the lifeblood of many regionally-based economies, which rely on it to provide jobs that support families and communities. We continue to receive daily correspondence from across B.C.'s tourism industry as guide outfitters, nature and outdoor recreation companies, travel agents, and countless other tourism operators plead for us to help them get support and answers from your government. That is why we continue to advocate for this industry and demand a framework for its recovery. Business owners need to see some semblance of a long-term strategy soon if they are going to be able to plan for the future.

When the Premier announced his Economic Recovery Task Force, we immediately acted, calling on him to include a representative from the tourism industry. Similarly, we wrote to you in April asking for a long-term, detailed plan for the industry's recovery so that hard-hit businesses can start preparing for the future. As it stands, we have yet to receive a response to our requests, which has us concerned for the industry's recovery.

The issue of Resort Municipality Initiative (RMI) funding is also a cause for concern. During our April 17<sup>th</sup> call with ministry staff we raised the issue that, given the current situation, RMI funding be made available sooner than it was in previous years, which would alleviate affected municipalities from incurring out-of-pocket expenses on projects in their respective communities. During the call, Deputy Minister Shauna Brouwer agreed to look into the issue, understanding the challenges facing communities that receive RMI funding.



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Given this, what steps are currently being taken to reassure British Columbia's 14 resort municipalities that the RMI funding they need to support their communities will be provided as budgeted and in a timely manner?

We look forward to hearing an update on these outstanding inquiries and for clarification on concerns expressed by B.C.'s resort communities.

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