

## Tourism Supports

- Thank you, Honorable Speaker. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted British Columbians, and all sectors in our economy.
- Our government knows that the tourism sector has been hit particularly hard.
- But I will remind the Opposition that we have flattened our curve with a strong and co-ordinated provincial approach, and due to all British Columbians taking Dr. Henry's recommendations to heart.
- Dr. Henry has repeatedly been clear that our provincial approach has been very effective, and a regional approach is not appropriate.
- Dr. Henry has also said that communities across the province have the same low risk when it comes to COVID-19 because of the measures we've all been taking and need to continue taking.
- Following Dr. Henry's advice is how we flattened the curve and are poised to launch Phase 3 and I think we should all continue to encourage people to follow her advice.

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

**CONFIDENTIAL  
ISSUES NOTE**

**Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture**

**Date: April 16, 2019**

**Updated: June 22, 2020**

**Minister Responsible: Hon. Lisa Beare**

# **Domestic Film Production**

### **RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:**

- **Our government is working to improve the competitiveness of B.C.'s domestic film and TV industry.**
- **I've raised concerns about gaps in federal relief funding with Heritage Canada.**
- **As always, our priority is ensuring B.C. film and TV producers get their fair share of federal investments.**
- **Through Reel Focus BC, we are creating opportunities for domestic talent, including two new partnerships providing \$800,000 this year.**
- **Each year, we invest approximately \$1.4 million into B.C.'s domestic film sector through Creative BC.**
- **Our investment helps people who work in B.C.'s film and TV industry develop their projects, gain access to new markets and build stronger global partnerships.**
- **We are proud to be home to a vibrant film industry that creates opportunities and makes life better for people in B.C.**

### **If Asked: What are you doing to support domestic productions hurt by the pandemic?**

- **Our \$5-billion Action Plan has supports in place for people and businesses - including domestic production companies.**
- **This includes extended tax deadlines, support for commercial property tax as well as targeted relief on hydro bills and ICBC payments and rental assistance.**
- **We continue to work with the domestic film sector to understand what supports are needed to return to our thriving industry.**



**If Asked: Is it only domestic productions that can return in Phase 3?**

- **No. Under the BC Restart Plan any film or TV production that has a COVID-19 Safety Plan can operate once Phase 3 has begun.**

**If Asked: Is B.C.'s attractiveness to Hollywood productions actually squeezing out local productions?**

- **British Columbians working in the film industry benefit from hands-on experience working for US productions.**
- **And they bring this experience to our growing domestic sector.**
- **We're working with the sector to find ways to better support B.C.-based productions.**
- **For example, we introduced the screen writers' tax credit, fund Reel Focus BC programming through Creative BC and provide funding to the Knowledge Network.**
- **We'll continue to ensure B.C. producers get the support they need.**

**If Asked: What is Reel Focus BC?**

- **Reel Focus BC programs support B.C.-based companies to develop content and get their content to new markets.**
- **Through Creative BC we've recently announced two new partnerships that benefit local producers:**
  - **\$800,000 partnership with Rogers Group of Funds to support B.C. documentary and factual producers over two years [Nov. 2019].**
  - **\$400,000 pilot program with Canada Media Fund and CMPA to support the early stages of film development [Jan. 2020].**

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### BACKGROUND

COVID NOTE: B.C.'s film and TV industry, including most domestic productions, has been shut down since mid-March. Under BC's Restart Plan film and TV productions can return if able to follow the orders and guidelines.

B.C.'s domestic film and television sector face challenges and have asked for more support from the Province. Currently, [s.13](#)  
s.13

In Summer 2018 the Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture held a roundtable with domestic producers to understand their challenges and how the B.C. government can improve the competitiveness of B.C.'s domestic motion picture industry.

### Reel Focus BC

Through Reel Focus BC, the Province is working to improve the competitiveness of B.C.'s domestic motion picture industry by ensuring that B.C. film and TV producers get their fair share of federal investments from Telefilm, and other federal government programs, as per Minister Beare's mandate letter commitment.

The B.C. government, through Creative BC has launched two new innovative programs as part of Reel Focus BC to better support the domestic sector:

**Rogers Partnership** - On Nov. 2, 2019 Creative BC announced the Documentary and Factual Development Fund, a new partnership with Rogers Group of Funds. This \$800,000 partnership encourages the development of B.C.-based companies creating motion picture projects in the documentary series and factual series formats over two years (starting in Jan. 2020). Creative BC and Rogers are each contributing \$400,000. This partnership is the first time Rogers has partnered with a funding entity at a provincial level, and points to the growing importance of B.C.'s documentary producers.

**Access 2020** - On Jan. 22, 2020 Creative BC announced a \$400,000 pilot program to fund B.C.-based projects in the early stages of development. This is a partnership between Creative BC, the Canada Media Fund and the Canadian Media Producers Association BC Branch. This is the first time the Canada Media Fund has partnered with a provincial funding body.

### Domestic Industry

An Aug. 29, 2019 article in the Vancouver Courier and Business in Vancouver about the Vancouver International Film Festival highlighted the challenges faced by domestic film producers. The article cited the Canadian Media Producers Association's (CMPA) statistic that domestic TV productions from B.C.-based producers fell 15.1% year-over-year to \$438 million during the last fiscal year (March 2018). *A new CMPA report is expected in March 2020.*

An April 2019 Business in Vancouver article (*Foreign film, TV inflow swamping B.C. productions*) notes that Hollywood productions in B.C. are making the production of domestic products more challenging and expensive for B.C. producers. It cites B.C. producers are scouting locations in Alberta for made-in-B.C. productions.

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Program:	Adrienne Beck Amy Schneider	778 698-1800
<b>Approvals (initials only)</b>		
Program ED	ADM/DM	CD
AB/AS	AB	CW/CH

# **Tourism Industry Supports KM/QA**

## **Response/Recovery/Resilience**

**June 23, 2020**

### **Overarching Message Frame**

We are supporting B.C.'s tourism industry by:

- providing income support, tax reduction and deferrals, rent supplements and additional benefits for people and small businesses;
- focusing on growing the domestic market to spur a strong local summer travel season;
- continuing to secure our spot in the international tourism market because international bookings are often made one year before the date of departure;
- holding ongoing consultation with industry to hear what is needed for recovery; and
- working on destination development and Indigenous tourism to build a resilient tourism sector here in B.C. as outlined in our tourism framework.

### **Response:**

- B.C.'s tourism industry is among our province's biggest economic drivers and has been one of the hardest hit by the pandemic.
- We are helping all aspects of this important industry respond, recover and work towards resiliency following COVID-19.
- Since the start, we've had regular, ongoing dialogue with industry leaders which has been key to our success in securing supports from the federal government for B.C.'s tourism sector.
- We heard industry's concerns about being able to keep workers, managing fixed costs like rent, meeting tax deadlines and payments, and improving cash flow.
- Early in the pandemic, Finance Minister Carole James released B.C.'s COVID-19 Action Plan which includes \$5 billion in supports for people and businesses (\$2.2 billion in relief for businesses and \$2.8 billion to help people and fund services they need).

- Our commercial rent assistance partnership with the federal government lowers rents for commercial property owners up to 75%, helping B.C. small businesses and non-profit organizations for April to June.
- BC took the additional step of protecting businesses by preventing landlords who are eligible for the commercial rent program from evicting tenants, even if landlords choose not to apply.
- Some of the additional supports for businesses through the COVID-19 pandemic, include:
  - an average 25% reduction in property tax bills and giving businesses more time to pay their property tax bills;
  - deferral of tax payments for EHT, PST, carbon tax and others through September;
  - BC Hydro bill relief for small businesses;
  - people who had their income affected by the outbreak can apply for the BC Emergency Benefit for Workers for a tax-free one-time payment of \$1,000, which is in addition to the Canada Emergency Response Benefit; and
  - a temporary residential rent supplement of up to \$500 per month, freezing residential rents, and stopping most evictions.
- We also provided \$600,000 to RDMOs and secured federal funding for the Tourism Resilience Network which is helping hundreds of tourism businesses navigate the available supports and adapt their operators to the “new normal”.

## **Federal supports**

- We continue to meet with tourism stakeholders regularly and are bringing their concerns forward to our federal counterparts. Some of these supports to date include:
  - \$304 million allocated to Western Economic Diversification for the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund to support western Canadian businesses that have not been able to access support through other programs.
  - Western Economic Diversification Canada provided \$1.5 million in B.C. to support Indigenous tourism businesses and the BC Tourism Resiliency program.
  - The Canada Emergency Wage subsidy, which can provide a subsidy of 75% of employee wages, to help businesses re-hire workers previously laid off as a result of COVID-19. We were pleased the federal government responded to



our calls to extend this program to August 29, 2020, and is consulting industry on potential changes, including the 30% revenue decline threshold.

- The Canada Emergency Business Account, which provides interest-free loans of up to \$40,000 to small businesses and not-for-profits. We were pleased the federal government responded to industry concerns and expanded the program to include many owner-operated businesses.
- The Canada Emergency Response Benefit for people who have stopped working because of COVID-19, including those who are self-employed.

### **Recovery:**

- Working with industry leaders, we developed a recovery plan that will help ensure businesses are prepared and can come back strong.
- We are providing a \$5 million boost to Destination BC, in support of its major marketing strategy designed to encourage British Columbians to travel throughout the province and maintain BC's global competitive advantage. (YET TO BE ANNOUNCED)
- We provided \$10 million to 59 B.C. Community Destination Marketing Organizations so they can retain critical staff and offset fixed expenses.
- This funding means that our community-based tourism marketing organizations will be available to support local businesses as we prepare to welcome guests once again.
- 15 tourism associations, from farmers' markets to mountain biking and ski associations, will share \$400,000 to help put new health and safety measures in place and develop sector-specific marketing plans.
- Destination BC is providing \$130,000 to 130 community-owned visitor centres as part of the Visitor Services Network program to ensure physical distancing and heightened sanitation measures within their facilities.
- \$6 million secured from Destination Canada for recovery marketing in BC.
  - \$4.5 million to the largest CDMOs: Vancouver, Whistler, Victoria, Kelowna, Kamloops, Tofino/Ucluelet, Richmond and Prince George.

- \$1.5 million (matched with an additional \$1.5 million from DBC) to smaller CDMOs and sectors participating in Destination BC's Co-Op Marketing Partnerships Program.

### **Resilience:**

- Within the COVID-19 Action Plan, our government set aside \$1.5 billion for economic recovery. My colleagues and I are in active discussions now on how best to allocate this funding to support economic resilience, business recovery and help people province whose livelihoods have been impacted by the pandemic.
- To ensure a strong future for our tourism industry, we have accelerated the payment schedule for the Resort Municipality Initiative which develops visitor-related infrastructure in resort communities.
- Destination BC is launching major marketing campaign to encourage British Columbians to rediscover the many exciting experiences available in every corner of our province, from museums and cultural sites, to outdoor adventures.
- We continue to support destination development to implement key tourism experiences and infrastructure projects such as trail or cycling networks, art or cultural installations and accessible infrastructure, that will drive demand, create jobs, and increase tourism revenues.
- Through the rural dividend grant program, in June government provided approximately \$5 M to communities for tourism related projects, including trail development, Indigenous campgrounds, destination development and marketing.
- And over \$1 million in catalyst funding to help communities diversify and weather the cyclical down turns in their local economies (to be announced soon).
- We are working to restore social licence for tourism in communities across BC. I have spoken directly with several tourism communities to confirm community readiness. This information is ensuring that DBC's marketing efforts are aligned with the sentiment in individual communities.
- The response, recover and resilience plan is helping the many people behind B.C.'s tourism industry become prepared to welcome visitors back to our beautiful province once it's safe to do so.

### **Questions and Answers**

1. Doesn't your plan for tourism focus solely on driving demand, and ignore tourism supply?
  - Not at all. Our government allocated \$5 billion in our COVID-19 Action Plan to help businesses survive the immediate crisis, through income supports, tax relief and direct funding for people, businesses and services.
  - In addition, we have worked with the federal government to secure funding and programs that are protecting business solvency through interest-free loans and subsidies.
2. How do you respond to criticism that your Action Plan is for all business sectors and doesn't help businesses in the tourism sector?
  - Our plan was designed to maximize financial relief for businesses in every sector.
  - A typical tourism operator would benefit from:
    - Deferred tax payments
    - Help with commercial rent payments
    - Wage subsidies
    - Direct income subsidies
    - Relief from bills like Hydro and ICBC payments
    - Avoiding layoffs and help with rehiring employees
    - Access to credit through zero-interest loans
3. Are you telling businesses that intra-provincial travel will replace revenue from international guests?
  - No. Our first priority is protecting the health of British Columbians and stopping the spread of COVID-19.
  - I recognize that intra-provincial travel will not replace revenue from international or out-of-province guests.

- However, it can provide a lifeline to tourism businesses by helping them get through the summer until the health and safety of BC residents can be assured and we can welcome outside visitors to our province again.
  - That is why we are redirecting marketing efforts targeted at domestic travel over the short-term to capture some of the \$6.7B British Columbians spent abroad on travel last year.
4. Restaurants are struggling due to reduced business and the costs of adapting to guidelines for reopening. What are you doing for the restaurant industry?
- We've made a number of important changes in consultation with the restaurant industry, including:
    - Allowing restaurants to sell their existing liquor stock to other licensees who are still operating and/or to private liquor stores.
    - Allowing restaurants to deliver liquor products alongside the purchase of a meal.
    - Temporarily extending liquor licences expiring between March 31-June 30, 2020.
    - Temporarily authorizing the expansion of service areas, such as patios, to support physical distancing requirements and industry recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic.
    - Implemented a temporary wholesale pricing model that will allow liquor licensees to purchase beer, wine and spirits at reduced cost.
    - These are all in addition to the supports available through the COVID-19 Action Plan and the federal government's Economic Response Plan.
5. You established an Economic Recovery Task Force that doesn't include representation from the tourism industry. Are you ignoring their needs?
- No. The Task Force includes representation from the Business Council of BC, BC Chamber of Commerce, and the Vancouver and Surrey Boards of Trade, who broadly represent the interests of the business community in our province, including those of the tourism industry.



- We know that more support is needed to bridge the time until international travel is once again considered safe and encouraged, and I am having discussions with the sector directly on the best way to support long-term recovery.

6. s.13; s.16

7. Why doesn't government provide the tourism sector with dedicated funding similar to its response after the wildfires in 2017?

- In both instances, the wildfire and the pandemic, government worked with industry to determine what supports were needed for the sector.
- We've been speaking to industry throughout the pandemic and have heard their concerns about being able to keep workers, managing fixed costs like rent, meeting tax deadlines and payments, and improving cash flow.
- The Province is providing income support, tax reduction and deferrals, rent supplements and other benefits for people and small businesses and continuing to work with the federal government to secure additional benefits.

8. Other countries have announced tourism-specific pandemic recovery funding. Why isn't Canada or B.C. doing the same?

- In fact, our plan to support people and businesses through the response, recovery and resiliency phases is in line with what other jurisdictions are doing.
- Our first priority has been on keeping people healthy and safe and we've all done an excellent job in acting on the advice of health officials and minimizing the spread of the virus in B.C.

- We are now moving towards Phase 3 which will further spur our province's recovery from the pandemic.

9. <sup>s.13</sup>

10. Can tourism operators get private test kits?

- Testing is available for all who need it, but not everyone requires a test.
- Current testing guidelines limit testing to symptomatic individuals except in special circumstances.
- If you have symptoms of COVID-19, contact your primary care provider, local public health office, 8-1-1, or use the Ministry of Health's online self-assessment tool at [covid19.thrive.health](https://covid19.thrive.health)

## Responses to GP Questions – July 9th

***Q What is the Minister doing to support provincial tourism businesses from the supply side?***

I continue to work hard to champion the interests of B.C.'s tourism sector.

I have been consulting closely with people in the industry since the start of the pandemic to identify and monitor impacts, bolster assistance, and advocate to federal officials about gaps in their programs affecting B.C. tourism businesses.

To date, I have had over 75 meetings with tourism stakeholders such as the Regional Destination Management Organizations, the BC Hotel Association, the Tourism Industry Association of BC, the Resort Municipalities, the Minister's Tourism Engagement Council, various sector organizations and tourism businesses.

We recognize to grow and sustain tourism we need both demand – marketing to generate interest – and supply – products and services for visitors to enjoy once they arrive in market.

Supports for the supply side of tourism are essential to ensuring that the sector is well positioned to recover from the devastating effects of the pandemic on the industry.

The Premier recently conducted a roundtable with key tourism stakeholders and heard firsthand how tourism businesses would be best supported through the \$1.5 billion allocated for recovery and a part of the Province's \$5B Action Plan.

My Ministry has been working with the sector on destination development planning for the last several years. There now are 20 destination development plans that focus on the regional supply side of the tourism system as a result of this work. This work continues to be top of mind in provincial recovery efforts.

From:  
Sent:  
To:  
Subject:

July 9, 2020 11:23 AM  
Avison, Claire TAC:EX; Poirier, Dorice TAC:EX  
Re: examples of recent stimulus funding announced that supports tourism

Dorice – pls print for Claire

## Examples of stimulus /infrastructure funding across government supporting tourism

### FLNR Rural Community Development Grants

- Provided **\$14M to over 150 projects** to support economic development and recreational opportunities for British Columbians in rural and Indigenous communities throughout the province.
- **98 of those projects** supported tourism destination development initiatives, totaling **almost \$9M (\$8.893M)**
- Examples: Train networks, campgrounds, airport expansion, connectivity, cultural centres, signage, tourism master planning

### TRAN Active Transportation Grants

- Provided **\$9M to cost share 23 infrastructure projects and 21 active transportation network plans** provincewide.
- Projects to develop multi-modal transportation that benefit both residents and visitors, improve destination competitive advantage and sustainability

### MAH Community Culture and Recreation Projects (CCR)/Rural and Northern Communities (RNC) Infrastructure Grants

- CCR -- In partnership with federal govt, province provided **\$34.4M to 39 projects** supporting recreation and community development
- RNC -- In partnership with federal govt, province provided **\$8.1M to 15 projects** in rural northern communities
- **90% of funded projects** support facilities that benefit both residents and visitors
- Examples: art and culture centres, recreation and sport centres, boat launch facilities, FN longhouses and art centres, trail systems



Ensuring that our tourism businesses remain strong means that BC as a destination maintains its competitive advantage and we preserve our valuable Super, Natural brand.

**Specific supports the province has provided on the supply side of tourism include:**

- Accelerating disbursements to the 14 Resort Municipality Initiative communities, assisting them to adapt to the public spaces to support tourism businesses to increase capacity and revenues;
- Launching the Tourism Business Resiliency Network to help tourism businesses navigate the supports available and adapt to the “new normal”;
- Supporting restaurants with liquidity by providing wholesale liquor pricing and the ability to sell liquor with take-out and delivery service;
- Helping displaced tourism workers find work in other sectors like agriculture in cooperation with go2HR;
- Designating hotels and RV parks as essential services to house essential service workers, returning residents, and vulnerable populations;
- Providing flexibility in the use of grant funding for organizations whose events were unable to take place;
- Supporting patio expansions for the hospitality sector to increase patrons while maintaining social distancing; and
- Providing stimulus funding for organizations and communities to support tourism product and destination development through grants like the Community Culture and Recreation Infrastructure Grant, Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure Grant and the Active Transportation Grant.
- In addition, funding through the Rural Communities Development Grant is providing direct support to nearly 100 different tourism destination development initiatives.

**General supports for businesses include:**

- Initiating the BC Emergency Benefit for Workers;

- Providing temporary rent supplement, freezing rents and ensuring no one is evicted as a result of COVID-19;
- Enhancing payments through the BC Climate Action Tax credit;
- Delaying several tax filing and payment deadlines, including for the MRDT accommodation tax;
- Cutting commercial property tax bills for most businesses and giving businesses more time to pay their property tax bills;
- Partnering with the federal government to provide commercial rent assistance, and taking the additional step of protecting businesses by preventing landlords who are eligible for the rent assistance program from evicting tenants;
- Supporting commercial transportation through ICBC by deferring premiums, suspending insurance for idle commercial vehicles, and increasing flexibility around vehicle use;
- Providing small business customers with three months of financial relief on their BC Hydro bill;
- Ensuring no one can be terminated for COVID-related leave or absences; and
- Extending the temporary layoff period to 24 weeks for COVID-19 related reasons.

***Q Understanding is that tourism is guided in BC by both the Minister's strategic Framework for Tourism, and Destination BC's strategic plan. Given the significant impact of the pandemic on tourism, and tourism's uncertain future, will both of these plans be reviewed and updated to reflect the changing realities of tourism?***

Both the Strategic Framework for Tourism and DBC's Strategic Corporate Plan will continue to be the foundation for the work we do to support the Tourism Sector moving forward.

Even without the impacts of COVID-19 on the tourism sector, it is important to regularly review strategic direction to ensure the direction is still relevant to the current context, supporting the sector and the residents of BC.

The devastating effects of COVID-19 on the tourism sector and the communities that depend on the visitor economy further emphasizes the importance of the strategic priorities identified in the Framework...

...which include efforts to build a strong, sustainable tourism sector that benefits all British Columbians with specific focus on supporting people and communities, sustainably growing the visitor economy, and respecting nature and the environment.

***Q Will the minister be re-evaluating Destination BC's \$50M marketing budget given that even if many British Columbians travel this summer -and many won't because of anxiety and fear - it won't have a significant economic impact and calls from industry leaders for direct support to businesses.***

Destination BC has quickly and effectively pivoted their marketing to focus on the robust domestic travel market to encourage British Columbians to Explore BC. According to their research, resident intention to travel within BC continues to grow in numbers with 77% of people surveyed saying they are intending to travel this summer within their own province.

***Q We've heard concerns from many operators around a new program from Destination BC which offers ad space next to DBC ads at special rates. If the minister believes that advertising is the best way forward for the tourism industry to survive the pandemic, then why is DBC requiring payment from already cash-strapped businesses?***

Destination BC has launched an extensive \$8 million marketing campaign to support tourism businesses in every corner of the province, with comprehensive tactics including TV, print, digital, paid search, and social and editorial partnerships.

All these activities are being funded from Destination BC's budget.

As an additional opportunity, Destination BC has negotiated highly discounted and subsidized ad space in Black Press, Glacier Media and Vancouver Sun/Province publications for tourism partners wishing to opt in and increase

their own business-specific summer marketing.

The effective discount rate that businesses pay is 65% to 85% below the normal “rack” rate. Participation in these ads is completely voluntary.

Destination BC will continue to leverage its marketing tactics to ensure that the businesses in our tourism industry – one of the longest and hardest hit industries amidst the COVID-19 pandemic – are supported.



## Holding, Marina TAC:EX

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**From:** Farmer, Leila GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** July 13, 2020 8:47 AM  
**To:** Gardea, Daniela TAC:EX; Harbord, Chris GCPE:EX; Wormald, Carla GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Holding, Marina TAC:EX  
**Subject:** RE: KMs request

Further to my earlier email,

Here are the latest KMs on Haida Gwaii:

- We know that some First Nations are concerned about the potential impact this virus could have. We take those concerns seriously and we continue to work with them.
- Provincial officials have been meeting weekly with the Haida Nation as part of the United Coastal Communities to discuss pandemic response, identify concerns and share information.
- Dr. Henry reminds British Columbians that they need to be respectful of communities and how ready they are to welcome visitors.

Thanks,  
Leila

**From:** Gardea, Daniela TAC:EX <Daniela.Gardea@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** July 13, 2020 8:22 AM  
**To:** Harbord, Chris GCPE:EX <Chris.Harbord@gov.bc.ca>; Wormald, Carla GCPE:EX <Carla.Wormald@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Holding, Marina TAC:EX <Marina.Holding@gov.bc.ca>; Farmer, Leila GCPE:EX <Leila.Farmer@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** KMs request

Hi folks,

Unlikely MLB is up today but can we please prep 1-3 KM bullets for each of the below:

s.13

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Daniela Gardea  
Senior Ministerial Assistant  
Office of the Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture and responsible for Sport and Multiculturalism

## TIABC Letter Response

July 21, 2020

### Key Messages

- The Tourism Industry Association of BC is a strong voice for the sector during these challenging times.
- I want to thank them for their work and for their proposal.
- We are taking a co-ordinated, provincial approach to recovery, and the tourism sector can be assured I will strongly advocate for them as part of this work.
- I have been working closely with TIABC and other tourism sector representatives since the beginning of the pandemic
- We have already taken action on several of the sectors' asks, like creating a job matching program and allowing restaurants to purchase alcohol at wholesale price.
- I will continue to work closely with the sector and support a resilient recovery.

### Will you help with business liquidity?

- We know the tourism sector has been hard hit by this pandemic, and we thank TIABC for their ideas and this proposal.
- We will now take the time to review their submission as part of our recovery process.

## **Questions and Answers**

1. The tourism industry, the Opposition and the Green Caucus say government needs to be doing more to help the sector. What's your response to that?
  - I have been working closely with TIABC and other tourism sector representatives since the beginning of the pandemic.
  - We are supporting B.C.'s tourism industry by:
    - providing income support, tax reduction and deferrals, rent supplements and additional benefits for people and small businesses;
    - focusing on growing the domestic market to spur a strong local summer travel season;
    - continuing to secure our spot in the international tourism market because international bookings are often made one year before the date of departure;
    - holding ongoing consultation with industry to hear what is needed for recovery; and
    - working on destination development and Indigenous tourism to build a resilient tourism sector here in B.C. as outlined in our tourism framework.
  
2. Do you agree that the tourism industry needs over \$680 million in support – half of the available funding?
  - The Tourism Industry Association of BC is a strong voice for the sector during these challenging times.
  - I want to thank them for their work and for their proposal.
  - We are taking a co-ordinated, provincial approach to recovery, and the tourism sector can be assured I will strongly advocate for them as part of this work.
  - I have been working closely with TIABC and other tourism sector representatives since the beginning of the pandemic.

- We have already taken action on several of the sectors' asks, like creating a job matching program and allowing restaurants to purchase alcohol at wholesale price.
  - I will continue to work closely with the sector and support a resilient recovery.
3. Is the industry's request for low or no interest loans going to help businesses survive in your opinion?
- We know the tourism sector has been hard hit by this pandemic, and we thank TIABC for their ideas and this proposal.
  - We will now take the time to review their submission as part of our recovery process and continue our discussions with the tourism industry and businesses about what they need for the future.
4. What about the industry's request for XX or YY support?
- Today, our public consultation came to a close and we heard from more than 10,000 British Columbians about their priorities for B.C.'s economic recovery.
  - We will take that input back to the table, and in September, we will lay out B.C.'s economic recovery plan – one that reflects the priorities of all British Columbians, including the many sectors that have been impacted by COVID-19.
5. Why didn't BC receive the same tourism supports from the federal government that Quebec and Atlantic Canada did?
- We have been working hard to advocate for BC's tourism sector to the federal government.
  - We were pleased to see initial supports from federal government in early June – we received \$1.5 million to support BC Tourism Resiliency programs and Indigenous tourism businesses.
  - We also secured \$6 million secured from Destination Canada for recovery marketing in BC.

- \$4.5 million to the largest CDMOs: Vancouver, Whistler, Victoria, Kelowna, Kamloops, Tofino/Ucluelet, Richmond and Prince George.
- \$1.5 million (matched with an additional \$1.5 million from DBC) to smaller CDMOs and sectors participating in Destination BC's Co-Op Marketing Partnerships Program.
- I am dedicated to working closely with the federal government to ensure BC receives additional supports and I am confident the federal government appreciates the importance of BC tourism.

6. How will the industry recover without international tourism?

- Working with industry leaders, we developed a recovery plan that will help ensure businesses are prepared and can come back strong.
- We provided \$10 million to 59 B.C. Community Destination Marketing Organizations so they can retain critical staff and offset fixed expenses.
- This funding means that our community-based tourism marketing organizations will be available to support local businesses as we prepare to welcome guests once again.
- 15 tourism associations, from farmers' markets to mountain biking and ski associations, will share \$400,000 to help put new health and safety measures in place and develop sector-specific marketing plans.
- Destination BC is providing \$130,000 to 130 community-owned visitor centres as part of the Visitor Services Network program to ensure physical distancing and heightened sanitation measures within their facilities.
- \$6 million secured from Destination Canada for recovery marketing in BC.
  - \$4.5 million to the largest CDMOs: Vancouver, Whistler, Victoria, Kelowna, Kamloops, Tofino/Ucluelet, Richmond and Prince George.
  - \$1.5 million (matched with an additional \$1.5 million from DBC) to smaller CDMOs and sectors participating in Destination BC's Co-Op Marketing Partnerships Program.
- The latest B.C. job figures from Stats Can last week showed that the biggest gain came in the accommodation and food services sector.



- While it's great to see this sector start to recover, we know there have been major impacts due to COVID-19 and there's a long road ahead of us.
- However, I'm optimistic that we will continue to see more and more people return to work in the tourism industry as we adjust to our new normal.

7. Are you marketing BC to the rest of Canada? If not, why not?

- Destination BC is launching major marketing campaign to encourage British Columbians to rediscover the many exciting experiences available in every corner of our province, from museums and cultural sites, to outdoor adventures.
- We continue to support destination development to implement key tourism experiences and infrastructure projects such as trail or cycling networks, art or cultural installations and accessible infrastructure, that will drive demand, create jobs, and increase tourism revenues.
- We are working to restore social licence for tourism in communities across BC. I have spoken directly with several tourism communities to confirm community readiness. This information is ensuring that DBC's marketing efforts are aligned with the sentiment in individual communities.
- The response, recover and resilience plan is helping the many people behind B.C.'s tourism industry become prepared to welcome visitors back to our beautiful province once it's safe to do so.

# Tourism Operators Accessing Supports

## Highlights:

- A number of tourism operators on Vancouver Island have accessed supports through the tourism resiliency program.

## Main Message:

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- Richard Varela, Park Director of Horne Lake Caves Provincial Park, in Parksville:
  - Richard Varela: “The biggest benefit of the Vancouver Island Coastal Tourism Resiliency Program was having the assurance I’m not alone, that someone is listening, that someone has my back.”
  - Horne Lake Caves has adopted the highest health and safety guidelines to conduct a cave tour for people.
  - Horne Lake Caves re-opened on June 4 for businesses and has successfully being conducting cave tours for people since then.
  - Richard Varela: ““We are very pleased with the demand we are seeing from local residents and thank them for supporting us and the tourism industry.”

- Linda Bridgman, Group Sales & Marketing Manager with the Kingfisher Oceanside Resort and Spa in Courtenay:
  - Found the most valuable aspect of the tourism resiliency program to be the opportunity to meet with Program Experts.
  - Also worked collaboratively with Tourism Vancouver Island, Parksville Qualicum Beach Tourism Association and Parksville and Qualicum Beach Chambers of Commerce.
  - “It was so helpful to connect with Program Experts in areas key to the success of our business as we approach the summer months and look ahead to our future.”
  - “Gaining new perspectives and creative ideas in marketing and reputation management are essential, now more than ever, to ensure our business not only recovers, but thrives in this new economy.”
  - The resort re-opened on June 1 and are welcome guests for overnight stays, two dining venues and the spa.
  - They say they have received overwhelming support from their loyal guests and people who live on Vancouver Island.

- Andrew Jones, owner of the Kingfisher Wilderness Adventures (Port McNeill) and Coastal Rainforest Safaris (Port Hardy):
  - Andrew Jones established Kingfisher Wilderness Adventures over 20 years ago and had started a new business partnership within the past year, Coastal Rainforest Safaris.
  - He accessed the Vancouver Island Coastal Tourism Resiliency Program as a way to help navigate the information available to him and access the aid that would benefit each company.
  - He says having one-on-one support from a dedicated Program Advisor has been very beneficial and provided a personal touch that was really missing when trying to navigate everything on his own.
  - Mr. Jones has received funding through the Canada Emergency Business Account and the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy for Kingfisher Wilderness Adventures and has received ongoing support through the Resiliency Program.
  - Mr. Jones says that thanks to the advice from Program Experts, he and his business partner have been able to re-imagine Coastal Rainforest Safaris in a way that it will survive the pandemic and will flourish in years to come.

- Nathan Bird, General Manager of Eagle Wing Whale and Wildlife Watching Tours in Victoria:
  - Accessed Vancouver Island Coastal Tourism Resiliency Program for support.
  - Nathan Bird: “Thanks to the tourism resiliency program, one of our biggest wins has been collaborating with other marine operators; not necessarily just whale watchers. We gathered kayaking guides, fishermen, bear watchers and more for as many voices as possible.”
  - The Pacific Whale Watching Association worked to create a master document as a “blueprint” for reopening marine based businesses.
  - The document was vetted and approved by the Provincial Health Office and WorkSafeBC, which allowed Eagle Wing to use it as a template and create their own, company-specific protocols.
  - They re-opened on July 1, and hired back as many of their employees as possible (21 vs 49 from 2019)
  - Nathan Bird: “...tourism is an industry that is dedicated to collaboration, and the support we’ve received through the Vancouver Island Coastal Tourism Resiliency Program has only enhanced this statement and given us the determination to fight for long-term resiliency.”

## Landsea Tours & Adventure

### Highlights:

- Landsea Tours and Adventure, a Vancouver based sightseeing tour agency, has been critical of BC's approach to tourism supports during the pandemic.
- The release says this operator has reduced their workforce from about 130 people to two, sold their office, shop, yard space and vehicles to stay afloat.

### Main Message:

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- I know how hard the tourism sector has been hit by this pandemic – that's why we acted right away to provide supports to people and businesses. s.13
- The operator being referenced by the Opposition is eligible for a number of provincial and federal supports including:
  - The enhanced commercial rent relief program, which provides a 75% rent reduction for business
  - Deferred business taxes (ex. EHT and PST)
  - The 75% wage subsidy program that we successfully advocated to Canada to support
  - Zero-interest loans for small and medium sized businesses
- Staff in my ministry have reached out to the operator to ensure they have access to the supports they need during this challenging time.
- Our government will continue to support BC businesses as we build an economic recovery that puts people first.

s.13



## Background:

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- On July 22, the Opposition released a news release criticizing the provincial government's approach to tourism supports during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In this release, they highlighted Landsea Tours & Adventure, a Vancouver based sightseeing tour agency.
- The Opposition says the operator usually employs approximately 130 people during the summer, but due to the pandemic have reduced their staff to two and have sold their office, shop, yard space and some vehicles to stay afloat.
- Kevin Pearce, president and owner of Landsea Tours & Adventure, was quoted as saying: "The bills are still coming in but there's no money coming. I am baffled by the delay to act by this government. We had to close our doors on March 16 and have had zero revenue for the past 18 weeks. An economic recovery plan for tourism is desperately needed now."
- On March 23, BC announced the COVID-19 Action plan, the province's first steps to support people and businesses impacted by the pandemic.
- BC also developed a commercial rent assistance partnership with the federal government to lower rents for commercial property owners by up to 75%.
- On May 25, BC provided \$10 million to 59 BC Community Destination Marketing Organizations so they can retain critical staff and offset fixed expenses.
- On June 1, the federal government provided \$1.5 million for two B.C. tourism organizations. Of this total, Indigenous Tourism B.C. is receiving \$500,000 and B.C. Tourism Resiliency Program is receiving \$1 million.
- A typical BC tourism operator has access to the following: deferred tax payments; assistance with with commercial rent payments; wage subsidies; direct income subsidies; relief from bills like Hydro and ICBC payments; avoiding layoffs and help with rehiring employees and Access to credit through zero-interest loans.
- On June 24, BC began Phase 3 of the Restart Plan. This means British Columbians can travel respectfully and safety around the province.

# Summary of Federal Funding Supporting Tourism

s.13; s.16

## 2. Breakdown of Federal tourism funding for BC

BC Initiative Funded	Amount
Vancouver Aquarium	\$2.0M
Tourism Resiliency Support Network	\$1.0M
Indigenous Tourism BC	\$0.5M
Destination BC	\$6.0M
Granville Island	\$16.7M
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$26.2M</b>

**If Asked: How will the 2.4% or \$1.248M reduction to Destination BC affect its operation and services?**

- We remain committed to supporting B.C.'s tourism industry through Destination BC.
- We are providing them with \$51 million in annual funding
- DBC will manage this change by reducing **discretionary spending** like hiring, travel, contracts.
- DBC will continue providing high quality tourism promotion.
- And ensure BC remains a leading tourism destination.

# NHL – Hub City Proposal

## Highlights:

- The Opposition is incorrectly claiming that government has introduced special travel and health rules for hockey players and celebrities, while not extending these same rules to British Columbians.

s.13; s.16

- The NHL's proposal meets the requirements of BC's public health officials and the BC government has publicly expressed support for this proposal.
- Media has reported the NHL may announce which cities it selects to be hub cities for the playoffs as early as Monday June 22.

## Main Message:

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- The proposal they are referencing was developed by the NHL and recently, it was approved by the federal government.

s.13

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- Then, each NHL team would be required to isolate, as a group, for the duration of their stay in Canada.
- I'll remind the Opposition that our government fought very hard for strong quarantine rules and we fully expect anyone entering the country must follow Canada's rules – including NHL players.

s.13; s.16

## Main Message Continued:

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- While our government is very supportive of Vancouver hosting the NHL for the playoff season, we were clear that there must be strict protocols in place to keep British Columbians safe and healthy.
- That's why we asked the Office of the Provincial Health Officer to review the proposal from the NHL.
- After careful review, BC's public health officials confirmed that the NHL's proposal exceeds their criteria for protecting our community – without compromise
- As indicated in the plan – teams would have no contact with the public by forming their own 'household bubble.'
- Among many measures to protect the public, they would be subject to intense screening and testing.
- This is good news for BC – we have world class sporting facilities.
- We also have a strong record in hosting professional sport tournaments.
- Like many British Columbians, we look forward to hearing from the NHL on which cities will be selected to the hub cities for the playoffs.
- And here's hoping it's Vancouver!



## Background:

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- On May 26, NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman announced that 10 hub cities are being considered to host the remainder of the 2019-2020 season.
- The 10 hub cities being considered as follows: Chicago, Columbus, Dallas, Edmonton, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Pittsburgh, Toronto and Vancouver.

s.13; s.16

- The NHL's proposal meets the requirements of BC's public health officials and on June 19, it was approved by the federal government.
- Media has reported the NHL may announce which cities it selects to be hub cities for the playoffs as early as Monday June 22.
- The NHL expects to begin Phase 2 of its Return to Play Plan in June, which will involve voluntary skates and workouts in small groups.
- Phase 3 of its plan is scheduled for July and will involve training camps.
- Phase 4 of its plan is tentatively scheduled for late July/early August and will see games being played again.
- The Canuck's first playoff game will be against the Minnesota Wild.

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE</b></p> <p>Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture</p> <p>Date: July 7, 2020 Minister Responsible: Hon. Lisa Beare</p>	<h1>COVID-19: Impacts on Film Industry</h1>
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### RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- Any film or TV production that has a COVID-19 Safety Plan can operate now that we're into Phase 3.
- I want to thank everyone in B.C.'s motion picture industry for their work with Creative BC and WorkSafe BC to develop health and safety protocols for the industry.
- This collaboration is part of the reason we're well-positioned to return to a thriving film and TV sector here in B.C.
- The measures we've put in place are helping the film industry return to production safely.
- I'm confident we'll return to 'Hollywood North' - North America's third largest film and TV hub.

### If Asked: Will you provide support to productions if insurance won't cover COVID losses?

- This is an issue for a number of sectors, in many jurisdictions, including the film industry.
- s.13
- Our goal is to support the return of B.C.'s thriving film and TV sector.
- I will continue to bring forward industry's concerns to the federal government.

### If Asked: How many productions are back to work now?

- As of July 2, there are 23 active productions in B.C.
- More than half of productions that shutdown in March have already re-started with many more coming soon.

- We look forward to seeing B.C.'s domestic production companies get back to set, and we welcome all of the studios back.
- In fact, Warner Brothers said they look forward to safely returning to production in B.C. with many of their iconic series such as The Flash and Supernatural.
- You can also check Creative BC's website for the most recent shooting list.

**If Asked: Will you make exceptions to the 14-day mandatory quarantine for film industry workers?**

- 97% of people who work in film in our province are British Columbians.
- So, people coming across the border to work will be minimal.
- Federal border restrictions remain in place and a 14-day quarantine is still required for anyone entering the province on a valid work permit or otherwise.
- Productions with questions around border restrictions should contact Canada Border Services.

**If Asked: How are you supporting out of work film industry workers?**

- Our government acted quickly by allocating \$5 billion to provide some relief for both workers and businesses across all industries.
- This includes the \$1,000 BC Emergency Benefit for Workers, which is available to anyone receiving the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.
- We're also providing targeted relief on hydro bills, ICBC payments and a temporary rental supplement.

**If Asked: How will the prolonged shutdown affect the Province's tax credits?**

- Tax credits are tied to the number and size of productions, and we're hopeful that most productions will return in the near future here.
- Thanks to the pre-certification process we brought in last year, we're able to track tax credits carefully.
- We will be looking at pre-certification data to determine if the shutdown will have an eventual impact on tax credits issued.
- Film tax credits are the responsibility of the Minister of Finance and any further questions are best directed to her.

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### BACKGROUND

On June 24, 2020 Premier John Horgan announced the start of Phase 3, meaning the film and TV industry can return to physical production, provided they follow public health orders and advice, WorksafeBC protocols, sector guidelines and create their own COVID Safety Plan.

In response, Warner Bros issued a statement in support, "Warner Bros. Television. looks forward to safely returning to production in British Columbia with many of our iconic series, including The Flash, Supernatural and Supergirl, along with exciting new shows like Superman & Lois as the province carefully begins to restart production."

On June 27, 2020 the Vancouver Sun reported the following statement from Michelle Vicary, executive vice-president of programming and network program publicity for Crown Media Family Networks: "We are excited to resume production in Canada. On June 22, we started principal photography in Vancouver on a new Hallmark Channel original movie, Wedding Every Weekend."

As of July 7, 2020 there were a **total of 23 active productions in B.C., including 14 domestic productions**. Domestic productions may be eligible for additional tax credits and federal funding. For a list of current productions: <https://www.creativebc.com/crbc-services/provincial-film-commission-services/in-production>

Film and TV production in B.C. shut down mid-March (global shutdown). On March 16, 2020 Dr. Bonnie Henry, the provincial health officer, prohibited all gatherings of more than 50 people. In response, productions across the province shut down, putting the majority of B.C. crews and production teams out of work.

s.13

### Border Issues

The majority of film activity in B.C. are foreign productions and require significant cross-border traffic. The border is currently closed and there is a mandatory 2-week quarantine period posing challenges for these productions to return to work. To note, cross-border travel is permitted for essential travel, which includes for work. Film workers can come to B.C. for work if they have a valid work permit and respect the 2-week quarantine period.

### Economic Impact

On April 21, 2020, the Canadian Media Producers Association (CMPA) released a COVID-19 Impact Analysis for Canada. The report states that from March to June 2020:

- \$2.5 billion in screen-based media production volume at risk of disruption or permanent loss

- Of that amount, \$1.4 billion relates to spending on labour
- 73,000- 81,000 cast and crew will be affected by work disruptions or work stoppages
- 155,000 to 172,000 workers across the Canadian economy will be affected by disruptions

CMPA reported that B.C. accounts for 37% of production volume in Canada. Therefore, the report indicates that the impact to B.C. of the film and TV shutdown is **approximately \$925M March-June.**

### **Premier/Dr. Henry comments on Film Industry**

Premier John Horgan commented on B.C.'s position for film industry recovery:

"No, I'm not aware of any requests, specific requests from the film industry to compare themselves to any other sector. I know they are unique and diverse. We have extraordinary talents -- behind camera talents, postproduction talent here in British Columbia. I think the big issue for many of the productions here is US front of camera personnel coming to British Columbia and how they would fit in to the quarantine. We have no intention at this time -- the federal government are our partners on this, they control the border -- of dismissing in any way the 14 day quarantine period. We do have on our economic recovery task force, the executive director of CreativeBC. She has been focused and working with us step-by-step. Minister Beare talks to the industry regularly, we are very anxious to get film up and running and in fact we are very close to that by announcing today the move to phase three. The producers and the other productions that are underway in BC will make their choices about how they are going to proceed." [June 24, 2020]

"But I would say that compared to Hollywood, Hollywood North is looking pretty good on the health front and we do have extraordinary talent here, unprecedented vistas and scenery as well as studio capacity to meet the needs of many, many productions. I do not think there is a comparison between the NHL proposal which was going to be a group of people in one place as opposed to the film industry which is dispersed right around British Columbia and has people, domestic staff, that would still be part of any production that takes place here." [June 24, 2020]

"I think the pace with which they will return is entirely up to them. We have certainly green lit the industry, the guidelines have been developed through public health and WorkSafe. The production teams will be looking at how quickly they can move, what is the availability of the front of camera personnel that are required to get these productions up and running. I would suspect certainly after the 14-day quarantine period, they can be shooting at their leisure. Again, being mindful of the conditions that are in place, the guidance that has been provided by public health and WorkSafe. And I would encourage them to come and get started. I know that I am running out of things to watch on Netflix and new content would be good. And I also know that the jobs that are connected to the industry are critically important in British Columbia not just in the lower mainland or the south island but indeed across the province. We certainly want to get those jobs back as quickly as possible but we are only going to do it if it is safe to do so." [June 24, 2020]

"Again, it is going to be difficult to compare economic statistics this year over last year or over next year. This is an extraordinary time. There is no question about that. But I do believe that all of the fundamentals to success in the film industry are here in British Columbia and have built up over the past quarter-century. We have skilled workers, they understand the sector. They know what is required when a production begins, producers come to British Columbia, the third largest film production location in North America after LA and New York. That is a prideful place for us to be. I know the workers in the sector take their work very seriously and the opportunities to get ahead of the other production areas -- I know New York and LA are not, they are still experiencing -- less so in New York but certainly in California, they have seen a significant spike in cases. I think that again makes British Columbia look appealing to producers who want to get their productions underway. British Columbians a good place for that to happen it. I'm hopeful, again, with the guidelines in place and everybody working with the view of the safety and well-being for everyone we will have a positive summer for the film sector, yes." [June 24, 2020]



## ADVICE TO MINISTER

"I've seen an increase in cases in California over the past number of days I suspect because of the large gatherings that have taken place in California and in fact in many other states in the US... I don't think we're at a disadvantage, quite frankly. I think we continue to have a competitive advantage because we've been focusing so hard on making sure that there is a gradual startup. Domestic production can be under way today. Foreign or international productions will require that front-of-camera talent to quarantine for 14 days. My understanding is the industry gets that, they respect that, and we're very much high on the list of places to come as soon as we give the high sign, which will be shortly. Dr Henry is looking at the data every day, as you know, providing to the public as much information as she has at her disposal, and when we get to a position for us to move to phase three we'll do that as quickly as we can." **[June 10, 2020]**

"And the self-isolation period, again, if you have to spend two weeks in isolation, Vancouver is not a bad place to do it. Vancouver Island is not a bad place to do it. Those rules are in place today at our urging. And we will ask for them to be diminished at a time when we believe it is safe to do so... we're working with Prem Gill at Creative BC, and trying to make sure that production companies and those that are in the business of making films for television and the big screen understand and recognize BC is preparing for a return to an active schedule as soon as we possibly can." **[May 27, 2020]**

"We have a tech sector that is extraordinary. We have a film and television industry that can, I believe, come back more quickly than in other places because of the good work of British Columbians in keeping our curve on growing number of confirmed cases to a minimum. These are the types of things that investors look at when they're looking at now freeing up their dollars, when we look at recovery and stimulus into the late summer and early fall." **[April 29, 2020]**

"Hollywood is looking at what we have been going in BC very favourably. They've seen that the curve is starting to bend in the right direction. They see the programs that we're putting in place, and they see an opportunity to return to B.C., perhaps, faster than they will to other parts of North America." **[April 9, 2020]**

When asked about allowing film industry to group quarantine, on June 24 Dr. Henry said,

"My overriding concern has been and will be making sure that all of the safety protocols that we need to protect our communities here in BC remain in place. So the NHL proposal was very specific and very -- more than it exceeded the requirements that we needed to ensure there was no contact with the public. And it's a very different situation is the Premier has said around the film industry. So there is no waiving of the 14 day quarantine and as a matter of fact, the NHL proposal was a quarantine essentially for the entire time that they are here. So we will look at everything as it comes across. But the overriding importance is the safety factor."

When asked about WorksafeBC guidelines for the film industry, on June 9 Dr. Henry said,

"I actually haven't seen the details yet of the guidance. I know they were working on them. That is a plan for our next phase -- so phase three. We're not there yet. We're still in our second incubation period, but, as we see, the numbers are looking relatively good. So that's a possibility. We still, however, have challenges with we are not having non-essential workers or family reunification is the restrictions we have on our borders right now. That is an area that will need to be addressed. As well, we need to consider where people are coming from. If there are people coming from a variety of places into our province, whether it's from the US or from countries in Europe or China, they bring their risk with them. We need to ensure that we continue. Right now there's still a quarantine order federally, and there's a provincial order that people need to self isolate for 14 days after coming. All of those provisions need to be taken into account as well."

When asked about the film industry and border restrictions, on May 12 Dr. Henry said,

"In terms of the border, right now I do not foresee lifting those restrictions on self isolation. We need to go through this next phase. We need to look at where we are, come the end of June into the summer, and see what measures can be put in place. I think, right now, the only thing that I see at the borders that we need to address is looking at how we can facilitate family reunification. But again, I would see that in the context of people having to self isolate when they come here.

As things improve, both in the US and in Canada, then we can look at having different conversations around the need for self isolation, but we're not at that place yet. And if we look at people coming in from other places coming from around the world, we still have travel-related cases. We've had Canadians repatriated from cruise ships, as I've mentioned, but also from a number of countries around the world that continue to be dealing with large numbers of cases of COVID-19, and they have developed their illness once they've come here to BC.

We're not at the place where we can think about lifting those types of safety measures at this point."

When asked about how the film and TV sector could resume in B.C. on April 21, 2020 Dr. Henry said, "I think it's the same question for all industries that we're thinking about. There's more or less risk to different types of industry. What I'm saying is that there needs to be guidance that we're putting out that talks about how do we best protect the safety of those who are working there, people who are involved in it, and, importantly as well, our families and our communities here in BC.

"There will be restrictions around numbers of people that can be in an area at one time, around the physical distancing, around the hand hygiene, around being absolutely certain that people are not coming into the environment if they have any illness. There's also times when we can't physically stay apart from each other, so is there ways that we can try and make that less risky? And things like wearing non-medical masks for certain situations may be helpful.

"Within those parameters of how we make sure that we're not setting up a situation where we're going to have lots of contact between people that will then allow for spread in our community. Those are the things that are most important."

Communications:	Melissa Peters	250 356-5698
Program:	Adrienne Beck Amy Schneider	
<b>Approvals (initials only)</b>		
Program ED	ADM/DM	CD
AB/AS	AB	CW

## Active Productions in B.C. as of July 2, 2020

Link: <https://www.creativebc.com/crbc-services/provincial-film-commission-services/in-production>

In Production (Canadian productions [domestic] in bold):

1. SUPERMAN & LOIS
2. A MILLION LITTLE THINGS - Season 3
3. **FAMILY LAW - Season 1**
4. THE ASTRONAUTS - Season 1
5. THE GOOD DOCTOR - Season 4
6. **VAN HELSING - Season 5**
7. WHEN CALLS THE HEART - SEASON 8
8. LOST IN SPACE - Season 3
9. **A CHRISTMAS TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN**
10. **AURORA TEAGARDEN MYSTERIES: REUNITED AND IT FEELS SO DEADLY**
11. **BEVERLY HILLS WEDDING**
12. **CHATEAU CHRISTMAS**
13. **CHRISTMAS FORGIVENESS**
14. **DELIVER BY CHRISTMAS**
15. **DESTINATION WEDDING**
16. **JINGLE BELL BRIDE**
17. **KITE FESTIVAL OF LOVE**
18. **LOVE IN ROMANCE, OREGON**
19. **MY ONE TRUE LOVE**
20. **PRACTICE TO DECEIVE**
21. **THE CHRISTMAS NANNY**
22. **THE CHRISTMAS YULE BLOG**
23. **WEDDING EVERY WEEKEND**

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE</b></p> <p><b>Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture</b></p> <p><b>Date: June 22, 2020 DRAFT</b> <b>Minister Responsible: Hon. Lisa Beare</b></p>	<h1>COVID - Music Industry</h1>
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### RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- I know many people are missing concerts and live music in their lives.
- Most musicians work in the gig economy, making them especially impacted at this time.
- To provide relief to the music industry we've:
  - Invested \$7.5 million for Amplify BC and modified programs based on industry consultation.
  - Launched Showcase BC, an online hub for B.C. creative content.
  - Provided micro-grants to musicians for livestreaming. This new program has already helped more than 700 artists in B.C.
  - Asked Music BC to take the lead on a return to work framework for the music sector.
- The music industry is resilient. I'm confident B.C.'s music industry will come back strong.

### If Asked: Will there be live music concerts and festivals this summer?

- The Provincial Health Officer updated the order to limit gatherings to 50 patrons.
- We need to look at ways we can have "few faces in larger spaces".
- Phase 4 in the B.C Restart Plan would be when larger gatherings like concerts are permitted.
- In the interim, we encourage concert organizers to consider smaller events that adhere to public health orders and advice.
- As Dr. Henry is fond of saying, this is not forever, this is just for now.

**If Asked: What other support is there for people in the gig economy like musicians?**

- **The federal government expanded eligibility for the Canadian Emergency Relief Benefit to allow people to earn up to \$1,000 per month in income.**
- **I'm pleased to see the federal government is extending the CERB for eight more weeks as well.**
- **People can now apply for the \$1,000 BC Emergency Benefit for Workers, which is available to anyone receiving the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.**
- **Plus, we've provided targeted relief on Hydro bills, ICBC payments and rental supplements.**
- **These benefits provide some relief for people working in the gig economy during the pandemic.**

# ADVICE TO MINISTER

## BACKGROUND

The pandemic has severely impacted the music industry in B.C. Due to the March 2020 public health order prohibiting mass gatherings of more than 50 people organizers cancelled or postponed most live music events, concerts and festivals.

s.13 Under B.C.'s Restart Plan, large concerts will be allowed under Phase 4, timing to be determined.

## Provincial Relief and Recovery

On April 11, 2020 the B.C. government launched **Showcase BC**, an online hub for creative content, such as livestreaming. Creative BC also offered musicians one-time micro-grants to provide immediate relief. Emerging musicians can get \$500 and \$2,000 to established musicians for livestreaming, song writing and professional development (\$750,000 total). To date, more than 740 artists have accepted the grant, with more than 260 planning livestream performances.

On June 1, the B.C. government provided \$7.5 million to Creative BC for **Amplify BC**, the Province's music fund. This funding will help maintain and stabilize artists, businesses and partners in the music industry over the next year. Based on industry feedback Creative BC re-focused the live music and music company programs to meet the needs of the industry. For example, both live music and music companies will be able to apply for operating support, as well as for support with innovation to pivot their business model.

## Industry Consultation

From April 23- May 1, 2020 MLA Bob D'Eith consulted with over 160 stakeholders in B.C.'s music industry, specifically recording studios, venues, companies, associations, festivals and live music presenters. They explored opportunities for the music industry to stay vibrant during the pandemic in a way that adheres to the Provincial Health Officer's directives and advice.

People expressed overwhelming support for Amplify BC to provide both operating and innovation funding to companies. People also wanted Amplify BC to continue to invest in music companies and artist career development to promote future success.

Communications:	Melissa Peters	250 356-5698
Program:	Lora McKay	
<b>Approvals (initials only)</b>		
Program ED	ADM/DM	CD
LM/AS	AB	CW/CH



## **Covid 19 Arts and Culture Supports**

### **GOVERNMENT ACTIONS**

- Our government acted quickly by allocating \$5 billion to the B.C. COVID-19 Action Plan.
- The Action Plan includes a number of measures to support workers and businesses, including those in the arts and culture sector, such as:
  - Initiating the BC Emergency Benefit for Workers (one time \$1000);
  - Providing a temporary rent supplement, freezing rents and ensuring no one is evicted as a result of COVID-19;
  - Enhancing payments through the BC Climate Action Tax credit;
  - Delaying several tax filing and payment deadlines (eg. EHT, PST, carbon tax);
  - Cutting commercial property tax bills for most businesses and giving businesses more time to pay their property tax bills;
  - Partnering with the federal government to provide commercial rent assistance, and taking the additional step of protecting businesses by preventing landlords who are eligible for the rent assistance program from evicting tenants, even if landlords choose not to apply;
  - Supporting commercial transportation through ICBC by deferring premiums, suspending insurance for idle commercial vehicles, and increasing flexibility around vehicle use;
  - Providing small business customers with three months of financial relief on their BC Hydro bill;
  - Ensuring no one can be terminated for taking time off work in order to follow the direction of the Provincial Health Officer; and
  - Extending the temporary layoff period to 24 weeks for COVID-19 related reasons.
- In addition, WorkSafeBC is waiving premiums for employers who are approved to receive the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) for furloughed workers.

## *CONSULTATION with ARTS & CULTURE*

- I continue to work hard to champion the interests of the arts and culture sector.
- I have been consulting closely with stakeholders since the start of the pandemic to identify impacts, further supports required, and identify gaps in federal programs.
- In fact, I have personally had nearly 30 conversations with multiple stakeholders from the creative and arts & culture sectors...
- ...while my colleague Bob D'Eith, MLA for Maple Ridge-Mission, has also engaged in outreach to nearly 50 creative sector and arts & culture groups.
- I also continue to meet regularly with my federal counterparts to ensure that B.C. has a strong voice at the table.
  - The federal government is providing \$500 million to culture, heritage and sport organizations as they manage the challenges and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and plan for the future.
  - So far, \$20.6M has been allocated to arts, culture, heritage and sport organizations in B.C.
  - That is approximately \$210 per every job within these sectors.

## *MINISTRY SUPPORTS*

- In addition, my Ministry has offered swift support to the arts and culture sector during this difficult time, specifically:
  - Launched the **Arts & Culture Resilience Fund** in March, with a total budget of \$3 million, benefitting over 400 organizations such as Runaway Moon Theatre and the South Peace Arts Society.
  - **Accelerated 100% of BC Arts Council annual operating grants to 312 organizations, totaling \$15M**, to support organizations, like Nanaimo & District Museum and Raven Spirit Dance Society.
    - We wanted to ensure organizations had available resources to manage cash flow shortfalls due to decreases in revenue, and...
    - ...ensure they were able to support their staff and the artists that depend on them.

- **Launched two new Microgrant programs to support artists:**
  - **Creative BC is distributing \$750,000** to support musicians. 831 funding offers were sent in April 2020.
  - **BC Arts Council is distributing \$100,000** to support artists of all disciplines to help adapt to changes in the sector.
- **The BC Arts Council provided \$200,000 to the Vancouver Foundation's Community Response Fund** to support organizations that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.
- **The B.C. government provided \$123,000 to the BC Museums Association for resilience grants to nearly 50 small and medium-sized museums throughout B.C.**
- **To support the music industry, the B.C. government and Creative BC launched Showcase BC**, an online hub for creative content, as well as microgrants for B.C. musicians.

## *RECOVERY*

- **As we start our recovery, the choices we make in the coming weeks and months can help us build an economy — and a province — that works for everyone.**
- **I will continue to actively engage with the arts and culture sector to ensure we hear everyone's voice and ideas to support our economic recovery**
- **I look forward to working with our sectors to build back a strong B.C. economy.**

**COVID-19  
Support for Arts and Culture  
June 22, 2020**

**Key Messages**

- COVID-19 and the need for physical distancing has had a significant impact on people in the arts and culture sector.
- I know that for many arts and culture groups returning to normal isn't possible for some time.
- That is why we're providing a variety of relief support for artists and organizations.
- We want to make sure artists are supported and our arts and culture sector can come back strong in our communities.

**Relief Support**

- Our government announced a \$5 billion Action Plan to support people, businesses, and services in B.C. impacted by COVID-19.
- This plan includes measures that offer relief to the arts and culture sector, such as:
  - Delaying tax filing and extended payment deadlines
  - 50% cut to provincial school property tax rate for commercial properties
  - Ban on commercial evictions due to COVID-19
- We're also supporting people by offering targeted relief on hydro bills and ICBC payments, and freezing rents, halting evictions and providing a rental supplement.
- Through the BC Arts Council's record high budget, we are providing grants to artists and organizations in more than 200 communities..
- People in the arts sector told us they needed certainty and room to breathe as they work through the implications of COVID for their organizations.
- That is why we responded with financial support and program changes.
- In addition, our government has provided targeted funding relief for **artists** through:
  - BC Arts Council's micro-grant pilot program for artists, offering up to \$1,500 to help artists and cultural practitioners adapt to the changes in the sector, in partnership with Yosef Wosk Family Foundation.
  - Creative BC's micro-grants to support musicians' livestreaming free events on Showcase BC. Emerging musicians were offered \$500, and established musicians \$2,000.
- In addition, our government has provided targeted relief for arts and culture **organizations**:
  - \$3-million Arts and Culture Resilience Supplement through the BC Arts Council for operating and project clients.
  - Accelerating 2020/21 operating funding of \$15 million to BC Arts Council clients to help with their cash flow.

- \$123,000 to the BC Museums Association for micro-grants to small and medium-sized museums to help them meet their immediate needs.
- Providing \$200,000 to the Vancouver Foundation through the BC Arts Council to support their Community Response Fund.
- We have also made changes to programs and policies to support arts and culture organizations:
  - Temporarily eliminated the application process for operating grants to ease their administrative burden
  - Automatically provided the Resiliency Supplement to operating clients, and with minimal application for project clients
  - Extended deadlines for programs in order to give applicants more time to understand and respond to the pandemic
  - Increased the flexibility for organizations and individuals with existing funding to repurpose or reprofile planned activities such as performances.

### **Re-Start**

- BC's Restart Plan is a careful restart of our economy while protecting people and all the progress we've made.
- Arts and cultural facilities such as museums were eligible to re-open in Phase 2, starting May 19.
- Performing arts venues have the option to re-open in Phase 3.
- Arts and culture organizations that wish to re-open must follow public health orders and guidance from WorkSafeBC.
- How they achieve this is going to look different for each organization.
- Sector associations have also developed best practices that help inform organization's operating plans.

### **Is it just symphonies and movie theatres that can return in Phase 3?**

- No, the sectors in the Restart Plan are examples only.
- Performance venues such as theatres may be able to re-open in Phase 3 if they are able to do so in accordance with public health orders.
- The plan for how and when to restart is going to look different for each organization.
- Arts and culture organizations that wish to re-open must follow WorksafeBC guidelines and public health orders.

**Some arts organizations are saying they aren't sustainable or won't survive under these restrictions. What support are you offering arts and culture organizations?**

- I know that for many arts and culture groups this is not a return to normal.
- That is why we're providing a variety of relief support to the arts and culture sector.
- As Dr. Henry is fond of saying, this is not forever, this is just for now.

**How are you ensuring resilience in the arts and culture sector?**

- Thanks to our significant investments the BC Arts Council's budget is now at a record high of estimated \$35.6 million.
- BC Arts Council has created a microgrant pilot program to help artists and cultural practitioners adapt to the changes due to the pandemic.
- BC Arts Council's has provided a \$3-million Arts & Culture Resilience Supplement and advanced funding for operating clients.



## ADVICE TO MINISTER

**CONFIDENTIAL  
ISSUES NOTE**

Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture  
Date: June 4, 2020  
Minister Responsible: Hon. Lisa Beare

# **COVID-19: Provincial Sports Supports**

### RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- I know those in the sport community have strongly felt the effects of COVID-19 profoundly, as sport and physical activity is such an important part of our collective wellness.
- British Columbians have stepped up and are doing their part to stop the spread of COVID-19. Together, we've made a lot of progress.
- BC's Restart Plan lays out the next steps - a careful restart while protecting people and all the progress we've made.
- This is a careful, phased plan to help reopen the everyday activities in British Columbia.
- Our government remains committed to helping B.C.'s sport sector recover from the impacts of COVID-19.
- In Phase 2 of the Re-Start Plan, viaSport, in conjunction with WorkSafeBC, has developed Return to Sport guidelines for the sport sector.
- Provincial Sport Organizations are using those guidelines to develop sport-specific return to play plans. As of June 15<sup>th</sup>, 34 plans had been completed.
- The Province and viaSport will continue to support the sport sector in operating safely during the pandemic.
- B.C.'s sport community knows how to overcome adversity and work as a team.
- Together, we continue to work together to get back to celebrating sport and active living in our communities.

## **Supports for the Sport Sector:**

- **As of April 2020, the Province, through viaSport, provided \$10.5M in accelerated funding to provincial, disability and multi-sport organizations.**
- **This funding represents 50% of their annual 2020-21 provincial funding allocation, to provide these organizations with access to cashflow sooner.**
- **Government has extended protection to amateur sport organizations, many of which are run by volunteers, so they cannot be held liable for damages caused by exposure to COVID-19.**
- **This protection is provided so long as they are complying with applicable guidance, including orders from the provincial health officer and following provincial sport guidelines as reviewed by WorkSafeBC.**
- **In addition, on March 18, the federal government announced a package for businesses and workers. These measures will offer some relief of the economic stress, but we know more will be needed.**
- **On March 23, the provincial government announced the B.C. COVID-19 Action Plan, which builds on the federal government's strategy and represents our first step to provide relief to people, businesses, and nonprofits in British Columbia.**
- **The B.C. COVID-19 Action Plan has several measures that will offer some immediate relief to the sport sector. These include delaying several tax filing and payment deadlines for personal income tax, EHT, and PST. Businesses and nonprofits will also benefit from government's announced 50% cut in the provincial school property tax rate for commercial properties.**
- **Our government is working hard to support people during this pandemic. We're offering targeted relief on hydro bills and ICBC payments, helping essential workers find the childcare they need, providing emergency financial assistance for students and freezing rents, halting evictions and providing a \$500 rental supplement to make sure people can stay in their homes.**
- **People who have had their income affected by the outbreak can apply for the BC Emergency Benefit for Workers for a tax-free one-time payment of \$1,000. That is in addition to the new Canada Emergency Response Benefit.**
- **As well, the federal government has introduced a temporary wage subsidy up to 75% and is providing additional business financing support through its Business Credit Availability program.**

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### BACKGROUND

With the continuation of travel restrictions and physical distancing orders in place, it has been challenging for B.C.'s sports sector to continue. With the progress into Phase 2 of the B.C. Restart Plan, viaSport with extensive sector consultation and WorkSafe BC, has developed detailed Return to Sport guidelines, which all provincial and local sport organizations must comply with in developing sport-specific plans to resume their sport. Amateur sports organizations are creating return to play plans for their specific sport based on the Return to Sport Guidelines created by viaSport and in conjunction with plans from local health authorities and municipalities.

An additional challenge to the resumption of sport by amateur sports organizations, which are often run by volunteers, has been the potential liability faced by organizations for damages caused by exposure to COVID-19. The Ministerial Order signed on June 10th extends protection to amateur sport organizations for this while a state of emergency is declared in B.C.

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Program:	Mark Sime	
<b>Approvals (initials only)</b>		
Program ED	ADM/DM	CD
[Initials]	AB/SB	CH

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL  
ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture  
Updated: June 11, 2020  
Minister Responsible: Hon. Lisa Beare

# Safe Sport/ Maltreatment in Sport

### RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- Any form of maltreatment of participants in sport is completely unacceptable.
- Ensuring safety in sport is a shared responsibility and one that our government takes very seriously.
- Every organization funded by the government requires staff, team coaches and officials working with children and vulnerable adults to undergo criminal record checks. These are available at no charge for all volunteers in B.C. who work with children and/or vulnerable adults through the Criminal Record Review Program.
- We are also working closely with viaSport, provincial sport organizations and our federal counterparts on ways to prevent maltreatment and make sure sport experiences are safe.
- empowers the sport community to actively address maltreatment. s.13 s.13 s.13
- s.13
- As of April 2020, government funding agreements with public sport organizations now include requirements for training for all board members and staff, updated codes of conduct and publishing of the Canadian Sport Helpline and safe sport messaging on their websites.

- **This is just the start. We know that more needs to be done to protect British Columbians in sport and will continue working with our partners to address all forms of maltreatment.**

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### Actions taken since Red Deer:

- B.C. is an active member of the FPT working group and joined other governments in committing to the Red Deer Declaration, which calls on us to work collaboratively to prevent harassment, abuse and discrimination in sport.
- Since we made our commitment in Red Deer, B.C. has provided input into the development of the Universal Code of Conduct to Address and Prevent Maltreatment in Sport and we fully support the January 2020 release of the UCCMS across Canada.

s.13

- Multi-lateral action on the Red Deer commitments has also moved ahead, including the launch of a national helpline for athletes, parents and anyone else who has concerns about abuse.
- We've also worked to promote the national helpline widely in B.C. and have provided B.C.-specific resources and other referral information (e.g. BC Helpline for Children and BC 211) to the helpline.
- To help us move forward, viaSport has led a wide-reaching consultation with the sector to inform work being done nationally and here in British Columbia (

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- And the Ministry has included direction in its funding agreements with viaSport and BC Games to support the objectives of the Red Deer Declaration.
- We remain committed to preventing maltreatment and ensuring the safety of all British Columbians in sport.

*If asked: How is B.C. promoting the helpline?*



- **B.C. directly supports the Helpline by:**
  - **Promoting the Helpline through government websites.**
  - **Working with Helpline staff to ensure callers from B.C. are directed to B.C.-specific helplines, viaSport or other provincial sport organization contacts.**
  - **Ensuring the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (which operates the Helpline) has links to B.C. resources (e.g. Helpline for Children, BC 211)**
- **viaSport has also:**
  - **distributed communications to share the Helpline with the sector (2,700 recipients)**
  - **added a prominent button to promote it on their website.**
  - **promoted the Helpline multiple times to 4,000+ Twitter followers**
  - **Delivered safe sport presentations at PSO AGMs and events**

***If asked what work is going into viaSport's***

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- **viaSport is working with the B.C. sport sector to support initiatives that are in harmony with the Red Deer Declaration.**
- **viaSport hosted the B.C. summit on March 11, 2019 with nearly 200 stakeholders to learn about what actions they are already taking to ensure safe and inclusive sport, free from harassment and abuse.**
- **In early 2019, viaSport engaged in research with nine provincial sport organizations to understand current and recommended approaches to safe sport from a policy and governance perspective.**
- **From February to April 2019, viaSport also conducted an extensive consultation with 16 provincial sport organizations and one multi-sport organization to learn ways they are currently responding around safe sport issues and understand challenges they face.**
- **viaSport brought together a group of athletes, coaches and sport leaders for a five-day (April 29 to May 3, 2019) session on actions the sector can take to make sport safer.**
- **More than 100 B.C.-based organizations have joined the Responsible Coaching Movement Pledge, about 18 per cent of the total 555 organizations that have signed it in Canada.**

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

- Based on the research conducted throughout the year, viaSport introduced four safe sport focus areas to the sport sector in December 2019: prevent, report, respond and uphold.
- In January 2020, sport leaders participated in in-depth consultations to inform and confirm recommended action steps.
- viaSport has also assembled a formal group of legal, child protection and policy experts to address the governance and compliance elements of proposed safe sport actions.
- On May 1, 2020, viaSport released a communication toolkit to help B.C. sport organizations raise awareness around maltreatment and the requirements of the safe sport system this year.

### **If asked about the 2019 federal budget's \$30 million support for safe sport:**

- I applaud the Government of Canada's investment in safe sport.
- In B.C., we are also actively working to strengthen sport safety and I look forward to seeing how Canada's investment can be leveraged to support our work.
- B.C. ministry officials are collaborating with their federal counterparts on a coordinated approach.

### **If asked about where to go for help:**

- If there is a requirement for immediate assistance related to immediate harm or physical threat, call 9-1-1 or your local police.
- Sport Canada has launched the Canadian Sport Helpline (1-888-83SPORT). This is a "listening and referral" service.
- If you think a child or youth under 19 years of age is being abused or neglected, you have the legal duty to report your concern to a child welfare worker. Phone 1 800 663-9122 (child protection workers) at any time of the day or night.

- **The Helpline for Children – a confidential toll-free phone line for children and youth wanting to talk to someone – is 310-1234 (no area code required.)**
- **VictimLinkBC is a toll-free, confidential, multilingual telephone service available across B.C. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 1-800-563-0808. It provides information and referral services to all victims of crime and immediate crisis support to victims of family and sexual violence.**
- **VictimLinkBC provides service in more than 110 languages, including 17 North American Aboriginal languages.**
- **The BC211 website ([www.bc211.ca](http://www.bc211.ca)) also has information on helplines and services and the Ministry of Education’s Expect Respect & a Safe Education (erase) also has good information for students, educators and students. This website also has a reporting tool <https://erasereportit.gov.bc.ca/add/report-it>**
- **Government has also established the Resilience BC Anti-Racism Network. The ministry is working with viaSport on promoting these resources through viaSport’s network.**

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Universal Code of Conduct**

At its February 2019 Conference in Red Deer, AB, Federal-Provincial/Territorial Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation (F-P/T SPAR) Ministers issued the Red Deer Declaration that calls for a coordinated response to addressing and preventing harassment, abuse and discrimination in sport.

A national Safe Sport Task Force comprised of National Sport Organizations (NSOs) and multisport organizations (such as Athlete CAN and Coaching Association of Canada) also recommended government leadership and support to bring the national sport community together to develop a Universal Code of Conduct for Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS) to clearly establish definitions of misconduct and associated sanctions.

Sport Canada provided funding to the Coaching Association of Canada to lead regional and national consultation sessions on the UCCMS and the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES).

The UCCMS was posted on the Sport Information Resource Centre website (<https://sirc.ca/canadian-sport-policies>) on Thursday, Jan. 16, 2020. There was no SIRC or Sport Canada media release to announce it.

The UCCMS is developed by and for the national sport community. Sport Canada does not consider it a government code of conduct but will require funded organizations to adopt and implement it, however, there are no compliance measures (e.g. withholding of funding, sanctioning for non-compliance).



# ADVICE TO MINISTER

## Federal Government Actions

The federal budget 2019 announced an investment of \$30 million over five years, starting in 2019–20 with \$6 million per year ongoing, to enable Canadian sport organizations to ensure a safe and healthy sport environment.

The initiative is expected to focus on the following three areas: 1) Implementing measures to eliminate harassment, abuse, and discrimination in sport; 2) Improving anti-doping efforts and; 3) Addressing concussions and other emerging ethical issues in sport.

s.12; s.13; s.16

s.12; s.13; s.16

On March 13, 2019, former federal Minister of Science and Sport Kirsty Duncan introduced an investigation unit for federally-funded national sport organizations, multi-sport service organizations and Canadian sport centres. It is an independent unit that sports groups can call to investigate all alleged incidents of harassment, abuse and discrimination in federally-funded sport organizations.

The minister also announced a national toll-free confidential helpline for victims and witnesses of abuse in sport. Callers from B.C. are referred to B.C. helplines (such as the Helpline for Children or the BC211 website) and resources such as the Ministry of Education's *erase* website or viaSport's Safe Sport resources.

## F-P/T Commitments

Ministers met in Red Deer, AB in February 2019. Following the Red Deer meeting in February 2019, Ministers released a joint communique outlining their shared commitments for addressing issues of abuse facing athletes. It can be viewed here: <http://www.scics.ca/en/conference/conference-of-federal-provincial-territorial-ministers-responsible-for-sport-physical-activity-and-recreation-10/>.

Ministers committed to the following immediate actions:

1. Establishing a standing item on safety and integrity in sport, including harassment, abuse and discrimination, on the agenda for ministerial conference calls and meetings for the purpose of reviewing progress of actions, updating priorities, and exploring innovative approaches;
2. Implementing a collaborative intergovernmental approach, with better harmonized commitments, mechanisms, principles, and actions to address harassment, abuse, and discrimination in sport in the areas of awareness, policy, prevention, reporting, management, and monitoring; and
3. Investigating a mechanism to report and monitor incidents of harassment, abuse, and discrimination reported in sport environments in order to inform future decisions and initiatives.

## CBC Investigation

On February 10, 2019, a joint investigation by CBC News and Sports published the first and second parts of a three-part series reporting that dozens of coaches involved in amateur sports in Canada have been convicted of sexual offences over the past two decades.

The investigation reported the number to be "at least 222 coaches" convicted from 1998-2018 and said 34 other cases of accused coaches are currently before the courts. The cases involve more than 600 alleged victims under the age of 18.

B.C. is highlighted as 3<sup>rd</sup> in number of incidents next to Ontario and Quebec. In B.C., basketball coach Codie Hindle is accused of sexual touching against three young players. A legal investigation is underway.

On Sept. 3, 2019, CBC Investigates released another story stating the government (federal) has fallen short on its commitment to protect kids in sport. The investigation found that few sports organizations are

aware of the new abuse hotline, and that it has only received 60 calls. Federal Minister Duncan that she has worked with sport ministerial colleagues provincially to try and have the hotline promoted regionally.

The Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture has received numerous follow-up media requests on actions taken since the Red Deer declaration was signed.

### **Criminal background checks**

Under the *Criminal Record Review Act* (CRRA) volunteer organizations are not required to come through the Criminal Records Review Program (CRRP), however, volunteer organizations can "opt-in" to the program. The registered organization can ask for an additional RCMP clearance along with the CRRP's clearance if they deem this request necessary. Volunteer organizations can opt out of the CRRP at any time.

The Act is intended to protect vulnerable sectors through the analysis of criminal records. It is important to note that a criminal record check under the Act can only look at whether an individual has been charged or convicted of a relevant offense.

Ensuring that adequate background checks and references are done is the responsibility of the volunteer organization.

### **Legislation and Other Ministries**

B.C.'s *Child, Family and Community Service Act* requires that anyone who has reason to believe a child or youth has been or is likely to be abused or neglected and that the parent is unwilling or unable to protect the child or youth, must report the suspected abuse to a child welfare worker.

B.C.'s *Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act* requires post-secondary institutions to establish a sexual misconduct policy and set out procedures for complaints, reporting and responding to a complaint. B.C.'s *School Act*, (Ministerial Order) requires school boards to establish codes of conduct that define what is unacceptable behaviour, including bullying and cyberbullying, while at school, at a school-related activity or in circumstances where engaging in the activity will have an impact on the school environment, and what the consequences of unacceptable behaviour will be.

The Ministry of Education's *erase* website provides comprehensive information on bullying – the 2019 budget announced new funding (\$190K) to provide more than 190 online safety sessions to more than 19,000 K-12 students across the province.

Government has also established the Resilience BC Anti-Racism Network. The Ministry is working with viaSport on promoting these resources through viaSport's network.

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## ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL  
ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture  
Date: June 19, 2020  
Minister Responsible: Hon. Lisa Beare

# COVID-19 impact on BC Hockey League

### RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- I have spoken with the BC Hockey League and know that the pandemic has created significant challenges for the BCHL.
- This has been a difficult time for the entire province, and I know many people are missing spectator sports in their lives.
- We want to ensure all existing sports leagues remain in our province.
- Dr. Henry is part of an international group of medical professionals who are developing guidance around mitigating virus transmission at large spectator events.
- The guidance is currently being used by the Bundesliga and other leagues around the world, and will be part of B.C.'s plan to return to spectator sports.
- But it is too early to say when that will happen.
- There are both provincial and federal supports to provide relief for businesses like the BCHL to help them recover after the outbreak.
- We recognize the challenges many people and organizations face while manage the risk of the virus.
- BC's Restart Plan lays out the next steps in our fight against COVID-19 - a careful restart of our economy while protecting people and the progress we've made.
- As we continue to practice proper health and safety measures, we collectively work towards the next phase in the Re-Start Plan and return to enjoying things we've missing now.

s.13; s.16

### *If asked: what supports are available?*

- I would like to share some information with you about supports that may help under B.C.'s COVID-19 Action Plan.
- This plan includes \$5 billion in income supports, tax relief and direct



## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### BACKGROUND

On May 22, 2020 Minister Beare spoke with members of the BCHL – commissioner Chris Hebb, governor Neil Menard and board chair Graham Fraser, to discuss their one-time request for funding from the Province, given the impact of COVID-19 on their upcoming season.

Mr. Hebb and Mr. Fraser wrote to Minister Beare on April 18, 2020, with a request for financial assistance. The letter was supported by statements of support from the Mayors of 15 B.C. communities, which are home to BCHL teams. The BCHL was established in 1961 and currently has 18 teams. The League generates revenue for communities and contributes to the development of amateur hockey players progressing in their careers.

The 2019/20 season was halted on March 13th, during the first round of playoffs, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

s.21

s.21

On May 26th, MLA Tegart wrote to Premier Horgan expressing her support of the Merritt Centennials and requesting government provide support to the team as well as the BCHL.

### Support for Junior A Leagues in Other Provinces:

s.13

On June 18th, Western Hockey League commissioner Ron Robison said in a press conference the league will need minimum 50% fan capacity in its arenas for the 2020-2021 season to be economically viable for them. Five of those clubs are in BC and play in Victoria, Langley, Kelowna, Kamloops and Prince George starting October 2nd. The WHL has not specifically requested funding from the Province but has connected with government.

A number of the franchise owners gave interviews to local media expressing concern about the league's economic future.

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL  
ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture  
Date: June 19, 2020  
Minister Responsible: Hon. Lisa Beare

# COVID-19 impact on BC sports leagues

### RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- I have spoken with several sports leagues and know that the pandemic has created significant challenges for them, particularly those who rely on spectators to generate revenue.
- This has been a difficult time for the entire province, and I know many people are missing spectator sports in their lives.
- We want to ensure sports leagues remain in our province.
- Dr. Henry is part of an international group of medical professionals who are developing guidance around mitigating virus transmission at large spectator events.
- The guidance is currently being used by the Bundesliga and other leagues around the world, and will be part of B.C.'s plan to return to spectator sports.
- But it is too early to say when that will happen.
- There are both provincial and federal supports to provide relief for sports league businesses to help them recover after the outbreak.
- We recognize the challenges many people and organizations face while we learn how to live with the virus.
- BC's Restart Plan lays out the next steps in our fight against COVID-19 - a careful restart of our economy while protecting people and the progress we've made.
- As we continue to practice proper health and safety measures, we collectively work towards the next phase in the Re-Start Plan and return to enjoying things we're missing now.

s.13; s.16

### *If asked: what supports are available?*

- I would like to share some information about supports that may help

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### BACKGROUND

The Canadian Premier League is Canada's professional soccer league and was started in 2019 with eight teams. During the pandemic, the CPL has proposed a spectator-free tournament in one city with international broadcast of live matches over a 60 days period. [s.13](#); [s.21](#)

[s.13](#); [s.21](#)

On May 26th, MLA Tegart wrote to Premier Horgan expressing her support of the Merritt Centennials and requesting government provide support to the team as well as the BCHL.

The Western Hockey League (WHL) has also been in touch with government to express their challenges associated with PHO's restrictions on mass gatherings, and associated impacts of tickets sale opportunities. [s.21](#)

The Canadian Football League was slated to kick off the regular season on June 11th but announced on May 21st, that the season would be delayed until at least September 2020. [s.21](#)

[s.13](#); [s.21](#)

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<b>Approvals (initials only)</b>		
Program ED	ADM/DM	CD
[Initials]	[Initials]	[Initials]

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

**CONFIDENTIAL  
ISSUES NOTE**

Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture  
Date: January 31, 2020, updated June 15  
Minister Responsible: Hon. Lisa Beare

**Destination Development  
(incl. Catalyst &  
Rural Dividend Fund)**

### RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **Destination development focusses on implementing key tourism projects in B.C. communities that will help grow and manage tourism over the long-term.**
- **Destination development includes tourism infrastructure, such as trail or cycling networks, art or cultural installations and accessible infrastructure, will drive demand, create jobs, and increase tourism revenues, which will benefit the people behind the tourism sector.**
- **Local area plans provide communities with a 10-year strategy for development and were developed following planning sessions with communities and over tourism stakeholders.**
- **They include a broad range of input and ideas from more than 1,600 stakeholders across the province.**
- **As the tourism sector moves into a phase of recovery, these plans will be critical to helping us rebuild and rebound from the impacts of COVID-19.**
- **These plans will be critical in helping communities identify where to focus their investments to stimulate their economies, drive visitation, bring back jobs, and generate revenues.**
- **We are committed to supporting destination development across the province and are continuing to explore options on how best to help communities implement their local area strategies and restart their tourism economies post COVID-19.**

### **If asked about the \$1 million Destination Development Catalyst Fund:**

- **We are putting forestry workers, their families and communities impacted by mill closures at the forefront of government supports.**



- We also need to help communities diversify their economies so they can better weather economic down turns in COVID-19 and the mill closures that are impacting workers and families in the forestry industry.
- That's why, in 2019, we provided \$1 million in funding, through Destination BC, to support tourism development and help communities diversify their economies.
- \$200,000 went to each Regional Destination Management Organizations (RDMOs) to support community tourism development planning and destination development projects in rural communities, specifically those impacted by indefinite and permanent mill closures.
- A key component of the Tourism Strategic Framework is to promote tourism in all regions of the province, and we want to make sure people in these communities see the benefits of tourism.
- As you can expect, much of this planning was put on hold as a result of COVID-19.
- But I have heard that many of these communities are eager to get projects off the ground and welcome visitors as we move into phase 3 of BC's restart plan.
- The RDMOs are continuing to work in collaboration with impacted communities and Government to prioritize the needs of the people who live there and determine what tourism projects will have the greatest impact and move us to recovery.
- Recently, the Province provided \$600,000 in funding for RDMO's to support the implementation of the BC Tourism Resiliency Network within each of their regions.

**If asked about the Rural Dividend Fund suspension:**

- Even before COVID-19 hit BC, workers and communities were facing an unprecedented situation in the forestry sector Government has reallocated funding from other areas to ensure urgently needed supports are in place for impacted forestry workers and their families.

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

- **Funding this essential programming for impacted workers has required that we temporarily reallocate funding in the Rural Dividend Program.**

s.13; s.17

- **To further support rural development, on June 18th, the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development announced nearly \$14 million in grants for over 150 projects to support economic development and recreational opportunities for British Columbians in rural communities throughout the province.**



## BACKGROUND:

Destination development supports the supply side of tourism (as opposed to marketing/demand side) by ensuring tourism policy, products and services meet and exceed visitors' expectations and entice repeat visitation. This includes providing compelling experiences, quality infrastructure, and remarkable services to entice repeat visitation.

Destination BC (DBC) has been working with communities and stakeholders for the past three years to develop local destination development strategies that will guide tourism development over the next 10 years to support the evolution of desirable destinations for travelers.

TAC and DBC are working jointly on identifying provincial priorities, as well as developing an implementation plan to ensure the 20 local plans and six regional plans are put into action over the next decade.

Of the 20 planning areas, 19 plans have been completed and the planning process is being initiated in the last area, Haida Gwaii.

Regional plans are under development, with three finalized (Vancouver Island, Cariboo Chilcotin Coast and Kootenay Rockies), one with work underway (Thompson Okanagan), and two pending as planning is still underway (Northern BC and Vancouver, Coast & Mountains).

In FY 2020/21, DBC will complete the remaining planning area strategies (Haida Gwaii), support action planning in remaining planning areas, and finalize regional strategies.

Destination BC is currently working with the RDMOs to explore options to support the implementation of the area and regional destination development plans once they are completed.

### Rural Dividend:

In September, the sixth intake of the Rural Dividend Fund, managed by FLNRO, was suspended and funds were reallocated to support communities and workers impacted by mill closures and curtailments, primarily in the BC interior.

s.13

On June 17, FLNRO announced nearly \$14 million in grants for over 150 projects to support economic development and recreational opportunities for British Columbians in rural communities throughout the province. The grants include approximately \$5 million for 39 trail and recreation projects, and almost \$9 million for 114 projects that support rural community development. Projects selected for these one-time grants were chosen from the following three categories:

- First Nations;
- municipalities; and
- not-for-profit organizations.

Communications:	Lisa Pilling – TAC GCPE	250-952-2928
Program:	Dawn Rueckl, Amber Mattock	
<b>Approvals (initials only)</b>		
Program ED	ADM/DM	CM/CD

**ADVICE TO MINISTER**

SF

CW/BC

FLNRO provided updated information June 17, 2020

# Tourism Supports

## Highlights:

- The federal government has provided \$30 million to support Quebec's tourism sector and \$16 million for Atlantic Canada's.
- Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe said it's "outrageous" the federal government hasn't provided equal tourism supports to the provinces and territories.
- The Opposition says up to 130,000 BC tourism jobs could be lost this summer, and BC should engage Canada to secure additional tourism funding.
- Prior to BC initiating Phase 3, the Opposition called on government to develop a regional re-open strategy to help sectors like tourism.

s.13

- British Columbians worked hard, made sacrifices and followed the advice of Dr. Henry and that's what allowed us to begin Phase 3 of our Restart Plan.
- We are now very fortunate to be in a position for British Columbians to safely and respectfully travel around our beautiful province.
- Following Dr. Henry's advice is how we got here and I think we should all continue to encourage people to follow her advice.

## Main Message:

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- The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted British Columbians, and all sectors in our economy.
- Our government knows that the tourism sector has been hit particularly hard and we acted right away by providing supports for people and businesses.
- We have been closely with the tourism industry to hear what supports they need as we all work together on BC's recovery from COVID-19.
- In May, we provided \$10 million to nearly 60 of BC's Community Destination Marketing Organizations.
- This funding helped them hold onto staff and pay their bills. It also helped these organizations to support local businesses in BC communities.
- We have been working hard to advocate for BC's tourism sector to the federal government.
- We were pleased to see initial supports from federal government in early June – we received \$1.5 million to support BC Tourism Resiliency programs and Indigenous tourism businesses.
- Our government will continue to work closely with Canada and I am confident we will continue to see federal funding support for BC tourism.
- We are pleased that British Columbians can support the tourism sector by respectfully travelling in BC.

## List of supports for businesses

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- We cut property tax bills for businesses by 25%, providing \$700 million in permanent relief.
  - Average urban business will save \$5,600
- We moved quickly to defer many business taxes until the end of September
  - This includes the EHT, the PST, the tobacco tax, the Municipal and Regional District Tax, the motor fuel tax, and the carbon tax.
- Small businesses that were forced to close can have their hydro bills forgiven for three months – saving an average of \$363.
- We enhanced the commercial rent relief program – which provides a 75% rent reduction for businesses – by preventing evictions of commercial tenants.
- We listened to the concerns of businesses and successfully advocated to improve federal programs:
  - the 75% wage subsidy
  - loans for small and medium businesses
- We allowed restaurants to purchase alcohol at wholesale prices, saving them up to 25%.
- We will continue to support BC businesses as we build an economic recovery that puts people first.



## Validators:

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- Walt Judas, CEO of Tourism Industry Association of BC (July 7, 2020)
  - "...I wish to express my sincere thanks for your leadership and support of B.C.'s tourism industry as we continue to deal with the devastating impacts of COVID-19...Minister, thank you again for championing the needs of tourism workers, businesses and communities throughout B.C."
  
- Mayor Sue McKortoff, Osoyoos (June 2020)
  - During an Opposition town call, the Osoyoos Mayor said: "I have to give Minister Beare full marks for being part of this. For listening to us, for providing some input and some dollars into this. So, I'm probably not the best person to be critical, because, quite frankly, I think we have had some good service from the government."
  
- Richard Varela, Horne Lake Caves Provincial Park director (June 2020)
  - "It was extremely helpful to get other perspectives and have a sounding board for ideas from someone who understands our industry, right here on Vancouver Island. **The Vancouver Island Coastal Tourism Resiliency Program was there when we needed support the most.**"



**Background:**

- BC’s tourism industry is expressing concern that more needs to be done to prevent hundreds of tourism-related businesses from closing permanently.
- On March 23, BC announced the COVID-19 Action plan, the province’s first steps to support people and businesses impacted by the pandemic.
- BC also developed a commercial rent assistance partnership with the federal government to lower rents for commercial property owners by up to 75%.
- On May 25, BC provided \$10 million to 59 BC Community Destination Marketing Organizations so they can retain critical staff and offset fixed expenses.
- On June 1, the federal government provided \$1.5 million for two B.C. tourism organizations. Of this total, Indigenous Tourism B.C. is receiving \$500,000 and B.C. Tourism Resiliency Program is receiving \$1 million.
- On June 24, BC began Phase 3 of the Restart Plan. This means British Columbians can travel respectfully and safety around the province.
- Destination BC February 2017 Service Plan:

(\$m)	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Forecast	2017/18 Budget	2018/19 Budget	2019/20 Budget
<b>Total Revenue</b>					
Government Transfers <sup>1-2-3</sup>	52.054	50.323	50.916	50.989	50.989

- Destination BC September 2017 Service Plan:

(\$m)	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Budget	2018/19 Budget	2019/20 Budget
<b>Total Revenue</b>				
Government Transfers <sup>1-2</sup>	51.838	50.916	50.989	51.030

- Destination BC February 2020 Service Plan:

(\$m)	2019/20 Forecast	2020/21 Budget	2021/22 Plan	2022/23 Plan
<b>Total Revenue</b>				
Government Transfers	52.221	51.373	51.373	51.373

## Greens – Tourism Sector

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- Thank you, Honorable Speaker. And I want to thank the Green party for this question.
- Our government knows the tourism sector has been particularly hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The tourism industry knows that a public health response and keeping our curve flat is key to our recovery, so we can continue to explore every corner of our province.
- We have been working closely with the tourism industry to hear what supports they need as we all work together on BC's recovery from COVID-19.
- For example, In May, we provided \$10 million to 59 Community Destination Marketing Organizations to help them welcome guests across BC once again.
- We worked hard to advocate for BC's tourism sector to the federal government including the \$1.5 million to support BC Tourism Resiliency programs and Indigenous tourism businesses.
- British Columbians worked so hard, to follow Dr. Henry's advice, which allowed us to begin phase 3, so people can again travel within BC and we can support our tourism businesses across the province.

## Main Message Continued:

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- Thank you, Honorable Speaker. Our government has been listening. We continue to meet regularly with groups like The Tourism Industry Association of BC, the Regional Destination Marketing organizations, Sector Associations and businesses who have asked us for a range of supports
- Like a program to encourage workers who lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic to find work.
- We partnered with go2HR to help them match workers with other sectors, including agri-tourism.
- The tourism sector also said we could help by extending a one-time grant to sector associations.
- We know how important these organizations are for the tourism industry's recovery, so Destination BC provided \$400,000 to 15 sector associations.
- The sector asked for relief on hydro bills. Our government understands that the pandemic caused financial hardship for many small businesses, like tourism operators.
- That's why we waived three months of bills and halted service disconnections.
- We have been taking action to provide the right supports to this important sector and we know there is more to do as we move towards recovery.

## Tourism Validators

### Validators:

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- Vivek Sharma, Vice Chair of Tourism Industry Association of BC, (July 21, 2020)
  - **“Yes, and with fairness to the government, they've done a whole lot federally and provincially both.** I think our ask now is to get a little bit more strategic in how we are aiding various businesses and look at where the actual need periods are.”
  
- Walt Judas, CEO of Tourism Industry Association of BC (July 7, 2020)
  - “...I wish to express my sincere thanks for your leadership and support of B.C.’s tourism industry as we continue to deal with the devastating impacts of COVID-19...Minister, thank you again for championing the needs of tourism workers, businesses and communities throughout B.C.”
  
- Mayor Sue McKortoff, Osoyoos (June 2020)
  - During an Opposition town call, the Osoyoos Mayor said: “I have to give Minister Beare full marks for being part of this. For listening to us, for providing some input and some dollars into this. So, I'm probably not the best person to be critical, because, quite frankly, I think we have had some good service from the government.”

- Nancy Small, Chair of BC Destination Marketing Organization Association (May 2020)
  - “This welcomed funding announcement will give many of us that ability to remain operating and plan for the future. It is excellent news.”
  
- Marsha Walden, President and CEO of Destination BC (May 2020)
  - “Destination BC is eager to support our community partners on tourism’s road to recovery. From marketing, to destination development and industry learning, we’re here to help restart the tourism industry as we slowly begin opening our doors again.”
  
- Richard Varela, Horne Lake Caves Provincial Park director (June 2020)
  - “Sorting through the flood of information, guidelines and protocols to determine what’s best for our business was a challenge. It was extremely helpful to get other perspectives and have a sounding board for ideas from someone who understands our industry, right here on Vancouver Island. **The Vancouver Island Coastal Tourism Resiliency Program was there when we needed support the most.**”

- Cheryl Macarthy and Dave Jorgenson, owners of the Frog on the Bog gift shop and several guest accommodations in the historic town of Wells, were supported by the Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Tourism Resiliency Program. They were successful in applying for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy. (June 2020)
  - “The gift store has a strong, local reputation as a must-visit retail attraction, so we have some confidence that we will survive through our tremendous regional support.” (Dave Jorgenson)



# COVID-19: Key Supports

## Highlights:

- Key Government supports for people and businesses.

## Message:

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### People

- The **Emergency Benefit for Workers** provides a **\$1,000-dollar payment** to people lost their income.
  - Has helped over 550,000 British Columbians
- A **top up to the BC Climate Action Tax Credit** will provide up to an additional \$451 in July for a family of four. (\$174.50 for adults. \$51.25 for kids)
- Temporary Rental Supplement provides up to \$500/month to reduce the cost of rent and ensure landlords continue to receive income.
  - Over 80,000 renters are benefiting
- A 3-month credit for BC Hydro customers who've lost income. Average credit of \$477
  - Over 100,000 applications have been approved worth more than \$30 million.
- We brought in **job-protected leave** for people unable to work because of COVID-19.
- We got the federal government to commit to providing **two weeks paid sick leave**.
- For the many people who carry student loans, we suspended all repayments until September 30<sup>th</sup>.

- We secured over 3,000 spaces at hotels and community centres in over 45 communities to support people experiencing homelessness, incl:
  - More than 800 spaces in Vancouver, including 261 for people from Oppenheimer Park.
  - More than 500 spaces in Victoria, including 344 for people who had been living on Pandora Avenue and in Topaz Park.
- We're providing safe hotel rooms for women and children leaving violent relationships.
- \$300 per month COVID-19 crisis supplement for people receiving income or disability assistance.

## **Businesses**

- We cut property tax bills for businesses by 25%, providing \$700 million in immediate relief
  - Average urban business will save \$5,600
- We moved quickly to defer many business taxes until the end of September
  - This includes the EHT, the PST, the tobacco tax, the Municipal and Regional District Tax, the motor fuel tax, and the carbon tax.
- Small businesses that were forced to close can have their hydro bills forgiven for three months – saving an average of \$363.

- We moved to enhance the commercial rent relief program – which provides a 75% reduction in rent for hard hit businesses – by preventing evictions of commercial tenants that could qualify.
- We allowed restaurants to purchase alcohol at wholesale prices, saving them up to 25%.
- We provided \$10 million in grants to tourism organizations, to support marketing campaigns for this summer.
- We brought forward concerns of businesses to improve access to federal programs:
  - the 75% wage subsidy
  - loans for small and medium businesses
- We have provided emergency funding to support child care centres – over \$150 million to support more than 4,500 child care centres.