



December 18, 2020

Re: HASCAP

DEAR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

On behalf of the Tourism Industry Association of BC (TIABC), I am writing to urge government to immediately roll out the *Highly Affected Sectors Credit Availability Program* (HASCAP) to help desperate businesses with liquidity. As you know, tourism and hospitality was one of the first and hardest hit sectors, and will likely be one of the last to recover from this pandemic. Virtually the entire industry has endured extensive employee layoffs at some point over the last nine months, while countless businesses have either ceased operation for the foreseeable future, closed permanently, or are desperately trying to maintain solvency.

While we recognize the restrictions on mass gatherings, border closures and capacity reductions are necessary to protect public health, our businesses rely completely on bringing people together and there is no sign of recovery in sight for the foreseeable future.

As the *Voice of Tourism* for British Columbia, TIABC has been working alongside sector partners, destination management and marketing organizations, communities and businesses to amplify concerns and provide recommendations to all levels of government on measures to prevent a complete collapse of the visitor economy and the permanent loss of tens of thousands of skilled workers.

Government support programs like the *Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)* and the *Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS)* are welcomed and appreciated. At the same time, with cash reserves depleted and losses accumulating each month, most businesses can no longer cover their monthly fixed costs.

Today, many businesses are close to insolvency. In fact, the latest industry survey by the Hotel Association of Canada revealed that without government-supported financing, almost 70% of respondents will not make it to next summer while over 40% will not make it to the end of February.

On behalf of BC's visitor economy and the tens of thousands of businesses and employees, we respectfully request that government please roll out the recently announced *Highly Affected Sectors Credit Availability Program* immediately to ensure that Canada's hardest-hit businesses can survive until the summer and continue to employ Canadians. Employees are the heart of business and are in dire need of this dedicated government support. Thank for your consideration and attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Vivek Sharma', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Vivek Sharma
Chair, Tourism Industry Association of British Columbia

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Walt Judas', with a large, stylized 'W'.

Walt Judas
CEO, Tourism Industry Association of B.C.
778-953-0620