

**News Release**

April 28, 2020  
For Immediate Release

**CRUISE LINES PART OF EFFORT TO COMBAT COVID-19**

VANCOUVER – As the global tragedy regarding COVID-19 has unfolded Cruise Lines International Association – Northwest & Canada (CLIA-NWC) has been working collaboratively on behalf of our member cruise lines with tourism partners and ports on both coasts, as well as with the Government of Canada, to share the latest information and answer important questions to combat the threats posed by the virus.

The top priority of our member cruise lines continues to be the health and safety of passengers, crew, and the communities where our ships sail. We are also concerned about the adverse economic impacts on our cruise partners, such as travel agents, longshore workers, ports, destinations, and numerous business partners.

The majority of the more than 270 cruise ships globally were not affected by the vexing new virus, due in large part to aggressive measures adopted by CLIA oceangoing cruise lines within 48 hours of the World Health Organization (WHO) declaring a global public health emergency. On March 13, our members voluntarily suspended operations - making the cruise industry one of the first to do so - to assist authorities in coming to grips with COVID-19 which has been a challenge for governments, medical experts, and industries around the world to understand.

Cruise lines are continuing to research and adopt robust measures in response to the COVID-19 based on prevailing guidance from international health authorities, including the WHO and the U.S. Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC). These measures include rigorous screening protocols, enhanced sanitation measures and increased onboard medical care and treatment 24/7, all funded by industry. Taken together, these steps are designed to protect guests, crew, and the communities where cruise ships visit.

CLIA and leaders of the member lines appreciate the constructive working relationship with Canadian authorities including Transport Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada as we seek to achieve our shared objective of protecting the health and safety of everyone involved in the cruise sector.

The cruise industry is a significant contributor to Canada's economy, generating more than \$3.2 billion in economic activity and over 23,000 jobs in transportation, lodging, food and beverage, agriculture, manufacturing, travel agencies across the country. Unprecedented disruptions in this year's cruise season will have a significant economic impact, especially on coastal communities in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and British Columbia.

**Background**

Cruise Lines International Association – North West & Canada (CLIA-NWC) is a non-profit association representing the major cruise lines that operate in Canada and the Pacific Northwest, including Washington State, Alaska and Hawaii. CLIA-NWC is one of fifteen offices around the world that are part of Cruise Lines International Association – the world's largest cruise industry association, which supports policies and practices that foster a safe, secure, healthy and sustainable cruise ship environment.

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