



November 30, 2021

The Honourable Erin O'Toole
Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada
Leader of the Opposition
Member of Parliament for Durham

Yves-François Blanchet
Leader of the Bloc Québécois
Member of Parliament for Beloeil—Chambly

Jagmeet Singh
Leader of the New Democratic Party
Member of Parliament for Burnaby South

Subject: *Bill C-2: An Act to provide further support in response to COVID-19*

Dear Mr. O'Toole, Mr. Blanchet and Mr. Singh:

On behalf of the Tourism Industry Association of Canada (TIAC) and the thousands of companies we represent across Canada, I am writing to request the support of each of your parties to pass Bill C-2 without delay.

When the pandemic struck, the tourism industry was the first hit, the hardest hit, and it will be the last to recover. Businesses in the industry and the many thousands of workers they employ are still at considerable risk without continued federal support, especially over the coming winter months until higher tourism levels are expected to return in the spring. Since the onset of the pandemic, the industry has effectively lost two full seasons as borders were closed and other travel restrictions and lock downs were in place. Businesses have faced crippling revenue losses, drained financial reserves, taken on substantial debt and now have difficulty attracting enough employees as they strive to relaunch. Without the financial support provided by Bill C-2, many companies simply will not survive the winter and many more jobs will be lost.

This is precisely why we were so deeply encouraged by the tourism-specific commitments made by each of your parties during the recent election campaign. You clearly understood the deep challenges faced by the industry and thus pledged your support to help it recover.

The government's spending authorities for the wage and rent subsidy programs expired on November 20, 2021. While Bill C-2 provides for retroactivity, failing to pass the new legislation before the Houses rises for the holidays would have a devastating impact on our businesses and their employees. Many operators are now struggling with having to meet their payroll and rent obligations without having the financial resources on hand to do so – the much-needed resources that were provided by the wage and rent subsidies. Faced with uncertainty as to whether the new proposed legislation will be approved, or with even a delay in its passing, businesses will be placed in the terrible position of having to lay off workers, and this just before the holidays.

TIAC and our industry partners are firmly committed to working expeditiously with all Members of Parliament to make sure we avoid this dreadful situation and to ultimately achieve our common goals of recovering the travel economy and rebuilding Canada's economy overall.

But we need your continued support to help us get there.

There is still a long way to go to rebuilding the tourism industry back to the \$105 billion economic driver it was, supporting close to 2 million jobs, pre-pandemic. But I am confident that by continuing to work together, we will achieve this objective.

In closing, I wish to express my deepest appreciation for the leadership you have demonstrated in support of Canada's tourism industry. I am available to meet with you at your convenience to expand on why the swift passage of Bill C-2 is so critical for the survival of the tourism sector. My office will follow up in the coming days to explore your possible availabilities.

Sincerely,



Beth Potter

President & CEO

Tourism Industry Association of Canada

c.c.:

Hon. Candice Bergen, CPC Deputy Leader
Gerard Deltell, CPC House Leader
Michael Barrett, CPC Deputy House Leader
Alain Rayes, CPC Quebec Lieutenant
Blake Richard, CPC Chief Opposition Whip
Hon. Pierre Poilievre, CPC Critic for Finance
Michelle Ferreri, CPC Critic for Tourism

Alain Therrien, BQ House Leader
Christine Normandin, BQ Deputy House Leader
Julie Vignola, BQ Critic for Tourism
Gabriel Ste-Marie, BQ Critic Finance
Claude DeBellefeuille, BQ Whip

Alexandre Boulerice, NDP Deputy Leader
Peter Julian, NDP House Leader
Lindsay Mathysen, NDP Deputy House Leader
Richard Cannings, NDP Critic for Tourism
Daniel Blaikie, NDP Critic for Finance
Rachel Blaney, NDP Whip