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Dear Community Business Owner,

Every British Columbian is impacted by this pandemic. People are worried about their health, their housing and their livelihood. With uncertainty looming, we want to provide you with reassurance that our government has your back.

We're taking real first steps to help people and businesses. At the end of March, our government announced a \$5 billion COVID-19 Action Plan to help British Columbians impacted by the pandemic. For the most up-to-date information on supports and services please visit [www.gov.bc.ca/covid19](http://www.gov.bc.ca/covid19).

**Provincial relief for businesses:**

- Further reducing the School Tax rate for commercial properties to achieve a total property tax reduction of 25% for most businesses and extending the deadline to October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Allowing businesses to defer payments for the Provincial Sales Tax, Employer Health Tax, Carbon Tax, Motor Fuel Tax, and Tobacco Tax until September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Forgiving power bills for small businesses forced to close due to COVID-19 from April to June 2020 and reducing BC Hydro rates for all customers effective April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Delaying the April 1<sup>st</sup> increase to the Carbon Tax, and application of PST to e-commerce transactions and sweetened and carbonated drinks.

**Federal support for small and medium sized businesses:**

- Providing a 75% wage subsidy for impacted businesses who keep employees on the payroll,
- Expanding the Canada Emergency Business Account offering up to \$40,000 in interest-free loans to small businesses and non-profits with payrolls of \$20,000 to \$1.5 million.
- Announced the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program to help small businesses pay rent for April, May, and June.

Our government is working with business and labour leaders from across the province to build an economic stimulus plan and have allocated \$1.5 billion to support economic recovery.





## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY of BRITISH COLUMBIA

If you have any feedback or questions about our COVID-19 Action Plan, please do not hesitate to get in touch with our constituency offices:

- Mitzi Dean can be reached by phone at [\(250\) 952-5885](tel:2509525885) or through email at [Mitzi.Dean.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Mitzi.Dean.MLA@leg.bc.ca).
- Rob Fleming can be reached by phone at [\(250\) 356-5013](tel:2503565013) or through email at [Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Rob.Fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca).
- Carole James can be reached by phone at [\(250\) 952-4211](tel:2509524211) or through email at [Carole.James.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Carole.James.MLA@leg.bc.ca).

Small Business BC advisors are also available at 1-833-254-4357 Monday – Friday from 8:00AM – 6:00PM and Saturday from 10:00AM – 4:00PM.

Whether your business has paused operations, changed operating practices, or is on the frontlines providing essential services, thank you for taking steps to help keep us all safe. Our government will continue to take steps to support people and businesses. We will get through this together.

Sincerely,

Mitzi Dean

MLA, Esquimalt-Metchosin

Rob Fleming

MLA, Victoria-Swan Lake

Carole James

MLA, Victoria-Beacon Hill

