

## **CHINA UPDATE – TELECONFERENCE**

### **Summary Notes**

Dear TIAC members,

As previously announced, TIAC held a China update call for members on January 9, 2019.

#### **CONTEXT**

- Recent events following the arrest of Huawei's CFO in Canada have created some geopolitical tension between China and Canada.
- TIAC has been in regular contact with Minister Joly's office as well as Global Affairs Canada as our government continues to work through these issues.
- TIAC wanted to provide members with an opportunity to hear from Government officials on any developments and also to share experiences/concerns/impacts from our stakeholders related to tourism.
- TIAC arranged for representatives from Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and Destination Canada (DC) to provide updates and answer questions from members.

#### **CALL PARTICIPANTS**

##### **TIAC**

- Charlotte Bell, President & CEO
- Vince Accardi, Director Policy and Stakeholders
- Marcela Diaz, Director of Public Affairs and Communications

##### **Destination Canada (DC)**

- Dave Robinson, Vice-President Strategy & Stakeholder Relations

##### **Global Affairs Canada (GAC)**

- Francois Rivest, Executive Director, Greater China Division
- Janet Dorozynski, Trade Sector Bureau
- Roxanne Hamel, Trade Commissioner, Greater China Division
- Paul Bailey

##### **Members**

- 78 members from across the country

#### **CALL SUMMARY**

##### **Topics discussed**

- Global Affairs Canada update on Canada-China situation-Q&As

- Destination Canada update on market impact since December-Q&As
- TIAC members impact and concerns regarding the situation

## **GAC**

- The relationship with China is complex
- Canada will continue to strengthen ties with China in many areas
- Canada must respect the rule of law related to extradition treaties and is obligated to co-operate
- Government is concerned about detained Canadians
- This is a fluid situation evolving on a daily basis
- Canada's existing travel advisory (at the time of our call) which states: "exercise a high level of caution" has been in place for a long time and has not changed as a result of recent events on January 9. At the time of the call, GAC advised that Government would only consider changing its existing travel advisory based on factual events. Since the call, and following a Chinese ruling sentencing Canadian Robert Schellenberg to death, the Canadian Government updated its travel advisory for China. While the risk level remains the same, Global Affairs advises that "Canadians should exercise a high degree of caution in China due to the risk of arbitrary enforcement of local laws."
- China's foreign ministry also published a notice on January 15 warning that Chinese citizens should "fully assess the risks of going to Canada for tourism." The notice said Chinese citizens may find themselves "arbitrarily detained at the request of a third party."
- GAC also reported that The Ice and Snow Festival in Beijing has had a slow start, mainly due to limited promotion by Chinese organizers, but Canada expects attendance to pick up.

## **DC**

- China is an important market for Canada
- At the time of the call on January 9, DC and China co-investment partners had agreed to pause new marketing initiatives for the time being, with social and digital campaigns that were already in place remaining active
- Since then, on Friday, January 11, DC and its partners agreed to begin to take steps to resume marketing in China. At this writing, DC has confirmed that plans to resume marketing continue.

## **TIAC**

- It is business as usual with China partners and for our programming
- TIAC has had very positive exchanges with its existing partners and stakeholders over the Christmas holidays and early January, including China Union Pay, the Ministry of Tourism in China (formerly CNTA) as well as the Chinese Ambassador to Canada, the Honourable Lu Shaye.
- TIAC will not respond to media enquiries at this time to avoid putting tourism in the spotlight. This is not a specific tourism issue per se and TIAC does not

want to attract attention to the tourism sector. Following Canada's updated travel advisory and China's travel advisory, TIAC continues to believe that it would not be useful to comment in the media concerning this issue. We continue to monitor the situation and will keep members informed of any change.

- Planned China readiness workshops are moving forward as scheduled
- Implementation of biometric requirements for China was announced in May 2018 and has been in place as planned since January 1, 2019.
- TIAC asks its members to advise us of any changes in inbound travel from China as a result of new biometric requirements and/or the ongoing situation with China.

## QUESTIONS DURING THE CALL

*Why biometrics now?*

- TIAC/GAC – this is not new. This was announced in May and TIAC has been working with the government for additional processing centres and biometric collection sites in China and other impacted markets.

*Why is the travel advisory high?*

- GAC – the advisory has not changed, changes are made on fact-based decisions and are not political. If circumstances warrant a change in the future, this will be based on factual information. This has now changed.

*Does China have a travel advisory on Canada?*

- TIAC responded that it did not appear that any advisory was in place at the time of the call. This has now changed.

*Will this affect China buyers at RVC?*

- TIAC – This is something we are monitoring. Since the call, TIAC can confirm that 83 Chinese buyers have already registered for RVC. We will work with Destination Canada to address any issues that may arise. We will inform RVC participants of any developments.

*Are China Readiness sessions moving forward?*

- TIAC – Yes, business as usual for sessions and existing agreements with China partners

*Are in-market tradeshow on hold?*

- DC – Planning continues at this time

## IMPACTS

- Air Canada reported that it is still early days and at this time, AC had not experienced impacts but continues to monitor the situation

- Parks Canada representative on the call reports that Parks continues to have good relations with China partners and has kept projects going as planned
- Niagara Helicopters reported that it will have a better sense of possible implications as we get closer to the expected busy time of Chinese New Year

## **NEXT STEPS**

- TIAC will continue to monitor developments on Canada-China relations
  - TIAC remains committed to providing information and updates as they arise and will plan future calls as warranted
- 

Members and stakeholders are encouraged to submit updates, comments and questions to TIAC's point of contact:

**Vince Accardi**  
**TIAC Director of Policy and Stakeholder Relations**  
**[vaccardi@tiac-aitc.ca](mailto:vaccardi@tiac-aitc.ca)**

Should you have specific questions for Destination Canada, please contact [info@destinationcanada.com](mailto:info@destinationcanada.com).