

September 16, 2020

Premier John Horgan, Province of British Columbia  
Hon. Adrian Dix, Minister of Health  
Dr. Bonnie Henry, Chief Provincial Health Officer  
Hon. Lisa Beare, Minister of Tourism, Arts & Culture  
Hon. David Eby, Attorney-General  
Hon. Michelle Mungal, Minister of Jobs, Economic Development & Competitiveness  
Government of Canada  
Victoria, BC

**RE: BCHA Position on Revised Public Health Order for Pubs, Bars, Restaurants**

Dear Premier Horgan, Ministers Beare and Dix,

As the President & CEO of the BC Hotel Association, and as Co-Chair of the Metro Vancouver Tourism & Hospitality Response and Recovery Task Force (MVTHRRT), I am reaching out on behalf of the over 1,300 accommodators and the many tourism and hospitality businesses across British Columbia. We thank you for your tireless efforts in helping our province through this difficult and unusual time. It is no easy task to undertake and we sincerely appreciate your leadership and commitment to ensure that British Columbians stay safe.

I'm writing to you today to with regard to real concerns expressed by our industry peers and liquor service providers regarding the Province's recent public health order. As part of MVTHRRT, I have heard first-hand frustrations with this new order which compels pubs, bars and restaurants to stop serving alcohol after 10 p.m. and in the case of liquor primaries, close their premises by 11 p.m. until further notice.

To echo the MVTHRRT, while on the surface the additional restrictions may make sense to address concerns regarding COVID-19 transmission, the notion of a blanket directive against these fledgling sectors penalizes the vast majority of compliant operators who have worked extremely hard to ensure the health and safety of their customers. Rather than an all-encompassing directive, a more palatable option would be to target individual operators who fail to adhere or enforce government directives and penalize them accordingly. There is undo hardship toward businesses who have shown adherence and leadership in health and safety standards and protocols, and we feel they should not be penalised by a few who are not being held to account by bylaw enforcement.

As you are aware, the hospitality sector has been among the hardest hit of any business sector since March. Even though pubs, bars and restaurants have individually invested thousands of dollars in health and safety measures to resume operations, many are still struggling to survive and ultimately recover from the crisis due to limited capacity. In fact, most are not yet realizing a profit. Further hampering the ability for these businesses to attract customers and generate revenue hurts operators and the diverse array of workers they employ.

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To that end, the British Columbia Hotel Association endorses the following recommendations respectfully submitted to the Province for consideration by ABLEBC, TIABC and the Metro Vancouver Tourism & Hospitality Response and Recovery Task Force:

- A. Extend the end of liquor service from 10:00 p.m. to midnight. Many operators generate 25-50% of their sales after 10 p.m.
- B. Implement greater enforcement such as closures for businesses that are non-compliant with other health and safety directives.
- C. Provide further direction to the hospitality sector on PHO expectations and conforming operating procedures.

Thank you all for your attention to this matter and for considering the above recommendations. We understand that you are committed to seeing British Columbia return to a place of confidence, investment and prosperity, while keeping our residents and visitors safe, and we are in complete alignment. As always, I am happy to make myself available to speak further on this matter.

Best Regards;



Ingrid Jarrett  
President & CEO  
British Columbia Hotel Association