



June 16, 2021

Hon. Premier John Horgan
West Annex Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
Canada
V8V 1X4

Dear Premier Horgan

The British Columbia Hotel Association represents over 1,300 hotel and lodging operators in your province. The top priority of our members is the safety of our guests, employees, and all Canadians. Over the course of the pandemic, hotel operators across Canada supported the safety of Canadians by operating 14-day quarantine facilities, offering a safe place to self-isolate for front-line workers, and shelter for the most vulnerable. We have been providing safe shelter for our essential workers since the beginning of the pandemic.

The pandemic placed great strain on the workforce and the fiscal stability of our businesses. Hotels provide critical infrastructure across the country. Where we succeed, the tourism economy is bolstered. Where we fail, tourism opportunities are set back, particularly in smaller communities.

Our industry strongly supports the recommendations of the COVID-19 Testing and Screening Expert Advisory Panel for refining testing and screening for land and air border measures. The Panel found the Government Approved Accommodation (GAA) program “likely improved quarantine compliance in Canada for the short term.” It also found that “evidence indicates that COVID-19 vaccines available in Canada are effective against lab-confirmed COVID-19 and severe disease” and “emerging evidence suggests that COVID-19 vaccination may reduce asymptomatic infection and transmission.” Science provides a path to safely transition away from restrictive measures and toward a phased reopening plan.

The Expert Advisory Panel provided evidence-based recommendations, and now the federal government must deliver a clear plan to implement those recommendations. It is important that your government support federal implementation of the Panel’s recommendations. We need your voice to advocate in support of the science based recommendations.

The federal government’s announcement earlier this month that Canadians with two vaccine doses would be readmitted to the country without a mandatory stay in a GAA is a welcome first step. However, the Expert Advisory Panel does not discriminate between returning Canadians and others who received two doses. Since the announcement, we have already begun to see many BC residents book vacations south of the border. Because of this, we risk losing critical local business needed to keep our sector afloat. We are hopeful federal and provincial governments will move quickly to reopen the border for travelers with evidence of two vaccine doses.

This week, a study in the United Kingdom found that even just one dose of the Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines are extremely good at keeping people from ending up in the hospital if they contract COVID-19 from the Delta variant. The evidence is clear that vaccines are effective against COVID-19 and the emerging evidence shows they may reduce transmission. With almost two thirds of Canadians vaccinated with at least one dose, the time has come to allow long-suffering families to be reunited, for couples separated by our border to be together, and for our nation to commence a phased and predictable reopening plan by Canada Day.

British Columbia Hotel Association
Suite 200 – 948 Howe St, Vancouver B.C., V6Z 1N9
Tel: 1-800-663-3153



BRITISH COLUMBIA
HOTEL ASSOCIATION

We encourage you to convey your support for a phased and safe reopening plan based on the Expert Advisory Panel report to the Federal Government and other Premiers in the days ahead. We are counting on your leadership.

Thank you.

Ingrid Jarrett
President & CEO
Ingrid@bcha.com
250.864.3793