

Dear Minister Shandro,

We are writing to express our appreciation to you, the Province of Alberta, and Alberta Health Services for the leadership and direction provided throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. We are optimistic that the unprecedented challenges of this time will soon be over.

I am corresponding on behalf of the Albertan tennis community as we kindly request support from the Government of Alberta in permitting restrictions to be eased for the sport of tennis. Please refer to the attached letter.

The Albertan tennis industry is supported by more than 150 dedicated coaches and professionals at 709 registered tennis courts across the province. Tennis Alberta sanctions over 102 tournaments each year accommodating players in age categories from under 6 to over 85+. There are over 10,000 registered tournament competitors and hundreds of jobs in other tennis related businesses including events and services. Additionally, our tennis facilities service over 95,000 Albertans per year through our events and programming and the sport has four accredited National Tennis Development Centres (two in Edmonton and two in Calgary).

We estimate that the gross value of our collective tennis facilities is in excess of \$100 million dollars in terms of land and building value, business operations, and economic impact derived from events and programming.

COVID -19 has significantly impacted employment levels within our industry as prolonged and relentless restrictions have been enforced. In addition to financially decimating tennis businesses/organizations throughout the province, ongoing restrictions have obstructed the playing public from being able to participate in an activity they care for so passionately. This in turn has led to our association receiving several distressing accounts from our membership reporting a significant decline in both mental and physical wellbeing.

Tennis Alberta would like to draw attention to the fact our sport has a flawless safety record. Several scientific studies conducted have consistently demonstrated there is negligible risk in permitting tennis activities to take place. This is thanks to a substantial playing surface area of 260.9 sq metres and the technical specifications of our sport being that of a noncontact nature.

On behalf of the Albertan tennis community, we are very appreciative of your consideration of this request and would be pleased to provide further information in the case this can be useful.

Yours sincerely,



**Alan Mackin**

Executive Director

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