

June 19, 2020

The Honourable John Horgan, M.L.A.
Premier of British Columbia
Office of the Premier
West Annex Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

The Honourable Jason Kenney, M.L.A.
Premier of Alberta
Office of the Premier
307 Legislature Building, 10800 - 97 Ave.
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

VIA EMAIL

RE: BC/Alberta Partnership in Phase Three Restart Plans

Mr. Premiers,

We write today to implore you and your governments to create an interprovincial zone that at the very least includes BC & Alberta as you move toward implementing the next phase in your provincial COVID-19 restart plans. We understand you may be considering this already but wanted to clearly articulate our support of that direction. This would be a pre-cursor to actively encouraging and supporting Canadians who are eager to explore this magnificent country from coast to coast to coast.

As you are aware, fellow Canadians are limited in their ability to travel internationally but both B.C. and Alberta would benefit if inter-provincial travel is not just allowed but encouraged. Such encouragement would provide leadership in reinforcing our common bond as Canadians and if inter-provincial travel occurs it will also help small businesses in both provinces, many of which are the lifeblood of rural communities on both sides of the border. We look forward to welcoming Albertans back to supernatural British Columbia this summer and we suspect the same goes for Alberta Chambers that have members that benefit from having British Columbians explore all that Alberta has to offer.

In many regions of B.C. including in the Okanagan, Alberta tourists and property owners have been positively contributing to our economic and social well being for decades and we would see them in the same light as any British Columbian. We hope you consider this as you look to lift travel restrictions and encourage domestic travel.



We understand that any easing of restrictions should happen safely and include precautions, and we fully support efforts that encourage travellers to be respectful of social distancing and other health protocols that are in place in both provinces.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Jeffrey Robinson
Chair of the Board
Kelowna Chamber of Commerce

cc Hon. John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia
Mayor Colin Basran & Council, City of Kelowna
Mayor Gord Milsom & Council, City of West Kelowna
Mayor James Baker & Council, District of Lake Country
Kelowna Mission MLA Steve Thomson
Kelowna West MLA Ben Stewart
Kelowna Lake Country MLA Norm Letnick
Okanagan Valley Chamber Policy Alliance Members
Val Litwin, President & CEO BC Chamber of Commerce
Ken Kobly, President & CEO Alberta Chamber of Commerce
Okanagan Valley Media