

December 16th, 2020

The Honourable Melanie Mark

Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
620 Superior Street
Victoria, BC V8V 1V2

Via Email: TAC.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Mark,

On behalf of the Whistler Chamber of Commerce, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport.

The Whistler Chamber looks forward to working with you and your ministry on building back a strong and sustainable economy that works for our community, and all British Columbians.

The Whistler Chamber of Commerce represents more than 600 businesses in a community representing a workforce equivalent to over 16,000 full time positions (based on 2019 Whistler Housing Authority survey). These businesses range from individually owned and operated small businesses to the larger organizations that sustain Whistler's four-season operations and resulting employment.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet to discuss the Chamber's areas of focus as we support economic recovery here at home in Whistler, and across the Province:

- Supporting our members through targeted online training and webinars to support them, and their employees, through pandemic response and recovery.
- Growing Indigenous partnerships throughout the Sea to Sky Corridor that enhance opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship.
- Advocating for regional transportation in the Sea to Sky Corridor to support community and provincial efforts to help fight climate change and enhance access to employment in Whistler, particularly from our Indigenous communities.
- Continuing the growth of tourism during the economic recovery to ensure that the post-pandemic, sustainable economy is inclusive of the important arts, culture, sports and heritage components that create meaningful employment and contribute to a clean, innovative economy of the future.

Prior to the pandemic, Whistler's economic contribution to the Province provided tax revenues critical to the well-being of British Columbians. We remain optimistic that together with government, our local businesses can return to those levels of support, and help achieve the priorities identified by your Government.

In the months ahead, I look forward to the opportunity to discuss our work further with you and ministry staff. We would also be pleased to host a roundtable with our members to allow you to hear directly about their experience during COVID and their work to build back better.

In the interim, should you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 604-657-2529 or email at ceo@whistlerchamber.com

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MP', followed by a period.

Melissa Pace
CEO
Whistler Chamber of Commerce

CC:

His Worship, Mayor Jack Crompton, Resort Municipality of Whistler
Hon. Jordan Sturdy, MLA West Vancouver - Sea to Sky

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Jordan.Sturdy.MLA@leg.bc.ca