

December 16th, 2020

The Honourable Ravi Kahlon

Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness
Legislative Assembly of British Columbia
620 Superior Street
Victoria, BC V8V 1V2

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

Dear Minister Kahlon,

On behalf of the Whistler Chamber of Commerce, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment as the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness.

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:

- Initiatives to support small business and the people that power these businesses during and beyond the economic recovery
- Solve the serious issue of understaffing that continues to affect almost all Whistler businesses, focusing on hiring Canadians First
- Building an established community of practice to support a living wage, diversity and equality in the workplace
- Grow First Nations partnerships in the Sea to Sky to create more opportunities for Indigenous peoples in the Whistler community as entrepreneurs and critical part of the workforce.
- Work with the government to build regional transportation in the Sea to Sky corridor providing ease of access to people's employment
- Partnering on new content development with diversified delivery methods to meet timely our business community's C19 needs
- Support an innovative, low-carbon economy

Prior to the pandemic, Whistler drove nearly 25% of the tourism export revenue for the province and generated \$1.4 million in daily tax revenue. 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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