

METRO VANCOUVER TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY TASK FORCE



September 16, 2020

Premier John Horgan
Province of British Columbia

Hon. Adrian Dix
Minister of Health

Dr. Bonnie Henry
Chief Provincial Health Officer

Hon. Lisa Beare
Minister of Tourism, Arts & Culture

Hon. David Eby
Attorney-General

Hon. Michelle Mungal
Minister of Jobs, Economic Development &
Competitiveness

Re: Public Health Order on Pubs, Bars, Restaurants

Dear Premier and Ministers,

On behalf of the members and stakeholders of the Tourism Industry Association of British Columbia (TIABC) and the Metro Vancouver Tourism & Hospitality Response and Recovery Task Force (MVTHRRTF), thank you for the work your government is doing to help individuals and businesses during this extraordinary time. Your leadership in helping British Columbians stay safe, as well as coping with the economic hardships caused by COVID-19 is both widely acknowledged and sincerely appreciated.

Our purpose for writing is to outline the concerns expressed by our respective members regarding the Province's recent public health order that compels pubs, bars and restaurants to stop serving alcohol after 10 p.m. and in the case of liquor primaries, close their premises by 11 p.m. until further notice.

While on the surface the additional restrictions may make sense to address concerns regarding COVID-19 transmission, the notion of a blanket directive against these fledgling sectors penalizes the vast majority of compliant operators who have worked extremely hard to ensure the health and safety of their customers. Rather than an all-encompassing directive, a more palatable option would be to target individual operators who fail to adhere to or enforce government directives and penalize them accordingly.

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Premier and Ministers

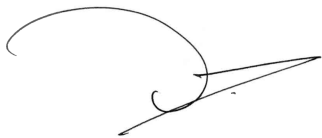
As you are aware, the hospitality sector has been among the hardest hit of any business sector since March. Even though pubs, bars and restaurants have individually invested thousands of dollars in health and safety measures to resume operations, many are still struggling to survive and ultimately recover from the crisis due to limited capacity. In fact, most are not yet realizing a profit. Further hampering the ability for these businesses to attract customers and generate revenue hurts operators and importantly, the many women, young people and other workers they employ.

To that end, TIABC and the Metro Vancouver Tourism & Hospitality Response and Recovery Task Force respectfully submit the following recommendations for the Province's consideration:

- A. Extend the end of liquor service from 10:00 p.m. to midnight. Many operators generate 25-50% of their sales after 10 p.m.
- B. Implement greater enforcement such as closures for businesses that are non-compliant with other health and safety directives.
- C. Provide further direction to the hospitality sector on PHO expectations and conforming operating procedures.

Premier and Ministers, thank you for your attention to this matter. Like you, we desire to see British Columbia return to a place of confidence, investment and prosperity as we respond to and recover from the pandemic. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,



Ted Lee, CFO, Tourism Vancouver
Chair, MVTHRRTF
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CEO, TIABC
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