

Hon. Rob Fleming
Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure
PO BOX 9055 STN PROV GOV
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

June 16, 2021



Re: British Columbia's Cruise Sector & Request for Meeting

Dear Minister Fleming,

On behalf of the Tourism Industry Association of British Columbia (TIABC), I am writing to express our concerns regarding the escalating cruise industry situation that has the potential to cause further damage to an already reeling visitor economy.

As you know, the cruise sector is a vital part of British Columbia's tourism and hospitality industry. Absence of a second straight cruise season has led to additional business closures and/or further hardships for many tourism operators. Although TIABC earlier this year appealed directly to your federal counterparts to consider a partial season in fall 2021 dependent on a number of considerations (e.g. increasing vaccination and declining COVID transmission rates), we're now more concerned that there are still no assurances for 2022. We suggest the current Canadian order vis-à-vis the ban on cruise ships be rescinded in November (concurrent with the scheduled expiry of the CDC conditional sail order) to allow cruise lines and the industry in BC to plan for next season.

On a related note, the threat of a permanent measure as the corollary to recent temporary U.S. legislation that allows cruise ships to bypass British Columbia to sail straight from Seattle to Alaska, is very real and deeply concerning to our sector. Suffice it to say, this issue must be addressed immediately.

In spite of British Columbia's advanced cruise infrastructure and resources, not to mention our appeal as a desirable destination and port-of-call, we cannot afford to take our cruise industry and the benefits we enjoy for granted, especially given American protectionist measures that have been applied to multiple sectors of our economy and now also include tourism.

To that end, TIABC has joined together with a national coalition of businesses, sector associations and other interests to appeal to the federal government to stand up for Canada's cruise sector. We are also working closely with our members at CLIA North West and Canada to support their efforts on practices and policies that foster a safe, secure, healthy, and sustainable cruise environment.

Minister, I appeal to your leadership to resolve this impasse with your U.S. counterparts, and to advocate to the federal government to not only make a firm commitment to the cruise sector in BC and across Canada, but to actively lobby American decision-makers at the highest level to ensure that any permanent bill allowing cruise ships to bypass our waters does not move forward under any circumstances.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your support of British Columbia's tourism and hospitality industry during the pandemic. I respectfully request to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss TIABC's position and to learn more about the Province's efforts on this file. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best Regards,



Walt Judas
CEO, TIABC
778-953-0620



CC: Premier John Horgan
Hon. Melanie Mark, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture & Sport
Lori Wanamaker, Cabinet Secretary & Head of the Public Service
Deputy Minister Jill Kot, Office of the Premier
Deputy Minister Neilane Mayhew, Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture & Sport
Deputy Minister Kathryn Krishna, Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure