



May 11, 2020

**Honourable Carole James**  
Minister of Finance  
Province of BC

**Honourable Rob Fleming**  
Minister of Education  
Province of BC

**Honourable Selina Robinson**  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Province of BC

**Mitzi Dean**  
MLA for Esquimalt-Metchosin  
Province of BC

**Honourable Bruce Ralston**  
Minister of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources  
Province of BC

**Honourable George Heyman**  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy  
Province of BC

**Honourable David Eby**  
Attorney General and MLA for Vancouver-Point Grey  
Province of BC

**Mable Elmore**  
MLA for Vancouver-Kensington  
Province of BC

**Honourable Adrian Dix**  
Minister of Health  
Province of BC

**Honourable Lana Popham**  
Minister of Agriculture  
Province of BC

**Jagrup Brar**  
MLA for Surrey-Fleetwood  
Province of BC

**Bowinn Ma**  
MLA for North Vancouver  
Province of BC

Dear Ministers and MLAs,

Re: Support for the restaurant industry – implementing the hospitality pricing model

On behalf of the West Broadway Business Improvement Association (WBBIA), a non-profit organization representing over 280 businesses, including 76 restaurants, I am writing to ask for your support to implement the hospitality pricing model to help restaurants in BC. Due to COVID-19, many business owners are in the middle of a crisis. The survival of local businesses hinges on implementing measures that support their ability to operate, and serve the community.

Local businesses are struggling to recover as they look to reopen with a number of restrictions that will limit their revenue and ability to cover costs. They need your support as a key part of their plan to recover and survive, so that they can bring back their staff, pay operating costs and resume business in “the new normal.” We realize that overcoming current challenges requires a collective effort. We have liaised with property owners that are doing their best to support tenants - many are also small business owners that are not earning revenue, and in addition to mortgage payments, they also need to cover building operating costs.

We greatly appreciate and support the decisions that have been made by our government during this crisis and for the ongoing efforts to keep British Columbians safe as we all work together to restart our economy. As the restaurant industry is getting ready to reopen safely, there are additional costs they are undertaking to implement safety protocols, on top of the costs associated with running their business. They also anticipate they will be operating at drastically reduced capacity for the foreseeable future. Due to these circumstances, it is essential that they can control operating expenses to ensure their survival.

One of the highest expenses for restaurants are liquor products, many of which are purchased from government stores at full retail shelf price. **Being able to purchase liquor products at discounted wholesale prices will provide essential breathing space, so that restaurants can re-employ workers and get back on their feet.**

We understand BC’s liquor industry associations and the BC Restaurant and Food Services Association (BCRFA) have submitted a proposal to create hospitality pricing for BC’s restaurants and on-premise liquor licensees. We strongly support this proposal and believe it is essential to implement hospitality pricing immediately and for at least the next two years.

Through my parents’ restaurant, I experienced the challenges of operating a small business and the personal impacts. Small businesses are inextricably linked to the livelihood of 1000’s of entrepreneurs, staff and their families. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter, and for everything you are doing to support the health and well-being of local communities.

Sincerely,

Michelle Barile  
Executive Director, West Broadway BIA

CC: Ian Tostenson, CEO/President, BCRFA

West Broadway Business Improvement Association

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