

March 24, 2022

John Horgan

Premier of B.C.

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Selina Robinson

B.C. Minister of Finance

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Harwinder Sandhu

MLA, Vernon-Monashee

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Re: Inflationary pressures on British Columbians

Premier Horgan, Minister Robinson and MLA Sandhu

The Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce writes regarding soaring inflation and the significant impact it is going to have on British Columbians and the economy.

Specifically, residents and businesses are experiencing increased costs of fuel for vehicles, businesses and homes. For businesses dependent on vehicles, they are seeing profit margins decline and these increased costs will need to be passed on to consumers. Paying more every time they fuel up and for heat impacts operational costs. These additional costs passed on to consumers are inflationary effects and consumer demand may decrease, having additional negative effects in business owners and those employees dependent on demand for stable jobs.

We believe there are actions your government can take to immediately reduce the financial pressure all British Columbians are experiencing. We would ask that you:

- Delay the scheduled increase of the carbon tax April 1.

This would be in keeping with the approach your government initiated in 2020 to assist consumers during the Covid-19 pandemic. Much like early 2020, British Columbians require thoughtful and meaningful leadership that allows them to adapt to a volatile financial situation. It should be pointed out that we are not

calling for the carbon tax to be eliminated, but that any increase be paused for a specific time period until the current inflationary pressures are better understood and ramifications of increases to costs are mitigated. Perhaps with the linking of a future increase to any significant reduction in inflation.

We appreciate that your government is experiencing multiple pressures that are complex and there are no easy solutions to any of these situations. That said, we do believe that some immediate and short-term actions can provide much-needed relief to British Columbians.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Robin Cardew, President
Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce

BC Official Opposition
City of Vernon Mayor and Council
District of Coldstream Mayor and Council
Regional District of North Okanagan Board of Directors
Okanagan Indian Band Chief and Council
B.C. Economic Development Association
City of Vernon Economic Development
Okanagan-Shuswap Chambers of Commerce
BC Chambers Executives Society