

Sept. 13, 2022

John Horgan

Premier of B.C.

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Harry Bains

Minister of Labour

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Harwinder Sandhu

Vernon-Monashee MLA

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**Re: Potential Holiday Sept. 19, 2022**

Premier Horgan, Minister Bains, MLA Sandhu,

The Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce wishes to provide input on the federal government's decision to declare Sept. 19, 2022 as a holiday for federally regulated sectors, and how that could influence the Province of B.C. and provincially regulated sectors in B.C.

First, our Chamber pays tribute to the significant accomplishments of Queen Elizabeth II during her 70-year reign. Her commitment to service to both Canada and the Commonwealth was truly inspirational.

However, we have concerns that the Province of B.C. will follow the lead of the Government of Canada and declare Sept. 19, 2022 as a holiday to recognize the Queen's state funeral that day. Our concerns include:

- Six days provides insufficient time for employers to adjust employee schedules and hours of operation;
- Businesses will lose a day of productivity, particularly when they continue to struggle from inflation, the labour shortage and the Covid-19 pandemic;
- Businesses that chose to remain open will have to provide increased compensation to employees at a time when profit margins are increasingly tight.
- A second statutory holiday in September would increase business expenses.

If the Province of B.C. is to consider a holiday Sept. 19, 2022, there are some realistic options to consider, including:

- Sept. 19 is a national bank holiday in the United Kingdom and workers in the U.K. are not entitled to time off;
- In Newfoundland and Labrador, businesses and non-government organizations will not be required to close or to treat the day as a paid holiday. "Businesses and other organizations in the province are encouraged to commemorate Her Majesty in a manner that works best for them," states a Government of Newfoundland media release;
- In Ontario, there will not be a statutory holiday, but residents of that province are encouraged to observe a moment of silence at 1 p.m. ET on the day of the funeral.

We are recommending that the province of British Columbia allow businesses and non-profits to individually decide whether or not to provide a day of recognition on Sept 19<sup>th</sup>.

We believe there are alternatives for British Columbians to honour the Queen and reflect on her legacy Sept. 19, 2022 while ensuring that businesses and organizations across B.C. have the ability to select the course of action that is best for them and their employees.

We look forward to hearing from you on this important matter.

Regards,



Robin Cardew  
President  
Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce

CC. 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

BC Official Opposition

Okanagan-Shuswap Chambers of Commerce

Okanagan Media