

Oct. 22, 2019
The Honourable Mel Arnold
Member of Parliament North Okanagan-Shuswap
Mel.Arnold@parl.gc.ca

Dear Mr. Arnold

On behalf of the Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce, I wish to congratulate you on being re-elected to a second term as member of Parliament for North Okanagan-Shuswap.

You have been a strong advocate for the Chamber and the region, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that matters of importance to our members and the economy are a priority in Ottawa.

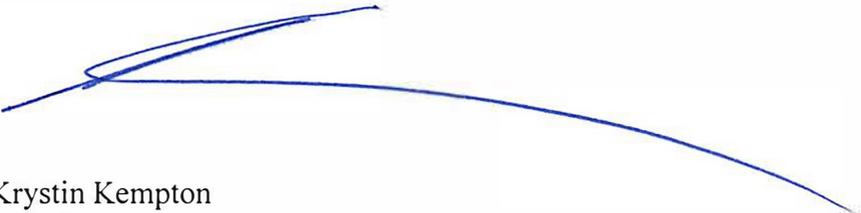
Specifically, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce recently endorsed a resolution from the Greater Vernon Chamber that urges the federal government to reduce the excise tax on distilled spirits to \$1.77 per litre on the first 150,000 litres of absolute alcohol, and to match the excise rate in the U.S. on an ongoing basis. An industry that is able to thrive and create employment will only occur through regulatory changes, and that requires movement across all party lines to benefit Canadians.

The second matter that our Chamber will pursue federally is funding for primary mental health and residential addiction treatment services. Currently, it is extremely challenging for individuals to access affordable assistance. The toll that these issues take on individuals, families, employers and communities is significant.

We would encourage you to partner with the Chamber on distillery taxation, as well as mental health/addiction treatment funding. The Chamber is hosting a policy session on the morning of Nov. 20, and you are invited to attend. If you are unable to participate in the policy session, please let us know when you would be available for a meeting.

Once again, congratulations on being re-elected as member of Parliament for North Okanagan-Shuswap.

Sincerely yours,



Krystin Kempton
President
Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce