

June 25, 2020

Hon. Harry Bains

B.C. Minister of Labour
Box 9064, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Bains,

As a follow-up to our letter of June 22, 2020, we wish to thank you and your ministry for the June 25 decision to extend the temporary layoff provision to a maximum of 24 weeks expiring Aug. 30, 2020.

We completely agree that, “the goal is to maintain connections between employers and workers who have a joint interest in supporting the economic recovery of businesses in B.C. and the jobs that go with them.” Through the extension, employers will be able to focus on rebuilding their businesses and still have the ability to recall skilled and experienced employees essential to reopening. It also benefits employees who are committed to supporting their families and communities.

It is difficult to know if an additional extension beyond Aug. 30 will be required as the pandemic’s impact on the economy is extremely fluid. But we appreciate that government will continue discussions with worker and employer representatives, and our Chamber is willing to provide any assistance we can that supports employers and employees.

Once again Minister, thank you for extending the temporary layoff provision and best of luck to you as we navigate recovery together.

Sincerely,



Krystin Kempton, President
Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce

CC: John Horgan, Premier of B.C.
Eric Foster, Vernon-Monashee MLA
Andrew Wilkinson, Leader of the Official Opposition
Adam Olsen, BC Green Party Interim Leader
Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association
Retail Council of Canada
BC Restaurant and Foodservices Association

BC Hotel Association
BC Alliance for Manufacturing
Canadian Chamber of Commerce
BC Chamber of Commerce
UDI Okanagan
Kevin Poole, Vernon Economic Development Officer
BC Federation of Labour