

June 8, 2020

**Honourable John Horgan**  
Premier of British Columbia  
West Annex  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Premier Horgan

The Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce appreciates the efforts of the government and health officials to ensure public safety while moving the economy towards recovery, but we believe there is more that could be done to encourage a successful transition.

Specifically, we are hearing from businesses in the North Okanagan who are struggling to reopen their doors because accessing and affording personal protective equipment (“PPE”) for themselves, their employees and customers has proven to be extremely challenging.

To assist with the situation, we recommend the following actions be taken immediately by the government:

- Provide and advertise a single source for those seeking information on re-opening, instead of expecting business owners to visit multiple sites;
- Create a central information hub for small business to find PPE that meets WorkSafeBC standards, with prices indicated;
- Give refunds to employers from the WorkSafeBC surplus for their costs of PPE – up to a maximum of 30 per cent of the premiums they have paid.

We urge you to move quickly on providing assistance to business owners who have been negatively impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and are looking to restart their businesses, which will act as a catalyst for recovery in our communities and province.

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

Sincerely,



Krystin Kempton, President  
Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce

CC: Eric Foster, Vernon-Monashee MLA  
Carole James, BC Finance Minister  
Michelle Mungall, BC Jobs Minister  
Andrew Wilkinson, Official Opposition Leader  
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  
Okanagan Mainline Real Estate Board  
BC Fruit Growers Association