

Todd Stone, MLA  
Peter Milobar, MLA

April 16, 2020

**Re: COVID-19 Provincial Economic Stimulus – Phase 2**

Dear MLA Stone and Milobar,

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to counter health, social and economic impacts facing our community, our province, our country and the world from the COVID-19 pandemic.

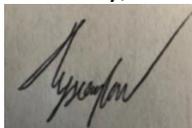
Through the BCMindReader.com online survey platform, the BC Chamber gained invaluable insight in real time from 1900 businesses in our Chamber network on the dire impact COVID-19 is having on their day-to-day operations. More than 80 members of the Kamloops Chamber of Commerce responded to the survey. Through this pulse check, we have a Kamloops-specific report on the local/regional business impacts from COVID-19 and what is needed to best support business and our members in the next phase of stimulus.

As businesses continue to see revenue decreases, their fixed costs and other expenses are challenging the viability of their operations. Our members tell us that the seven (7) proposed actions below will provide further needed relief to businesses and promote business viability in our region:

- 1. Further reduce tax rates facing B.C. businesses and households – 59%**
- 2. Business rent assistance – 43%**
- 3. Provide direct support to B.C. industry sectors that are being particularly affected by the pandemic crisis – 37%**
- 4. Further defer tax remittances facing B.C. businesses – 31%**
- 5. Roll back B.C. Hydro rates for 1 – 2 years – 31%**
- 6. Allow for deferred Municipal property tax payment and look at covering a portion – 23%**
- 7. Assist B.C. SMEs that are able to adopt remote work options for their employees with any up-front costs associated with doing so – 17%**

We hope you find these further proposed actions helpful in planning your next steps in support of business. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. Thank you again for your bold leadership and the opportunity to engage with you in this ongoing dialogue on how we rise to the challenge that is COVID-19 – *together*.

Sincerely,



Tyson Andrykew  
President  
Board of Directors  
Kamloops Chamber of Commerce