



April 16, 2020

Cathy McLeod, MP

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

Dear MP McLeod,

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 five (5) proposed actions below will provide further needed relief to businesses and promote business viability in our region:

- 1. Provide direct payments to affected businesses – 58%**
- 2. Provide further, enhanced wages subsidies for employees with reduced hours – 44%**
- 3. Immediately reduce rates for EI, company tax, GST, other government- imposed levies and charges – 40%**
- 4. Ensure that the supply chain continues to function – 34%**
- 5. Ensure that logistics continue to function (ports, railways, trucking, air service) – 28%**

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 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