

March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Via Email**

The Honourable John Horgan  
Premier of British Columbia  
[Premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Premier@gov.bc.ca)

**RE: Timeline of Casino Openings**

Dear Premier Horgan:

We are now two weeks' away from the one-year mark of the mandated closure of casinos in our province due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which took effect on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

The mandated closures have had and will continue to have a lasting impact on workers and their families in all of our communities, in all corners of our province. To make it worse, they still have no indication of when they might be able to return to work to provide for their loved ones. Nearly 37,000 people are employed through British Columbia's gaming, entertainment, leisure and hospitality sectors, including over 10,000 people directly employed by gaming operators in casinos, community gaming centres, bingo centres and horse racetracks.

Other province's/territories in Canada have managed to have their gaming industries operate without incident throughout the pandemic, with the safety of patrons and workers coming first and foremost. Our residents continue to face difficult and uncertain times as a result of the closures, with no indication of when they might see a reliable paycheck again. We would appreciate being provided with a timeline of what the provincial government is working towards in order to get our residents back to work.

The safety of casino workers and patrons is paramount. We urge you to look at other province's/territories for best practices on the reopening of casinos in developing a plan for British Columbians to safely return to work in this important sector to our communities. Workers and their families deserve to know what the Province is doing to get them back to work as quickly and safely as possible.

Sincerely,

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Mayor Ken Christian  
City of Kamloops

Mayor Andy Adams  
City of Campbell River

Mayor Walt Cobb  
City of Williams Lake

Acting Mayor Danny Plecas  
District of Mission

Chief William Seymour  
Cowichan Tribes

Mayor Mike Hurley  
City of Burnaby

Mayor Bob Simpson  
City of Quesnel

Mayor Carol Leclerc  
City of Terrace

Mayor Jonathan Cote  
City of New Westminster

Mayor Lori Ackerman  
City of Fort St. John

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