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The Honourable Dan Albas

Member of Parliament, Central Okanagan—Similkameen—Nicola

2562B Main Street

West Kelowna, British Columbia V4T 2N5

dan.albas@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Frank Caputo

Member of Parliament, Kamloops—Thompson—Cariboo

275 Seymour Street, Suite 6

Kamloops, British Columbia V2C 2E7

frank.caputo@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Tracy Gray

Member of Parliament, Kelowna—Lake Country

1420 St. Paul Street, Suite 102

Kelowna, British Columbia V1Y 2E6

Tracy.Gray@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Mel Arnold

Member of Parliament, North Okanagan—Shuswap

3105 - 29th Street

Vernon, British Columbia V1T 5A8

mel.arnold@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Richard Cannings

Member of Parliament, South Okanagan—West Kootenay

301 Main Street, Suite 202

Penticton, British Columbia V2A 5B7

richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca

March [Date], 2022

RE: Support for Tourism Businesses in Spring 2022

Dear Minister [name],

As a tourism business in your riding, I am writing to ask for your support of the tourism and hospitality industry.

While many businesses have suffered due to COVID, businesses and professionals in the tourism sector are truly among the hardest hit of the hardest hit. The impact has been devastating and ongoing, increasing operating costs and compounding with other regional challenges of floods, fires, smoke, extreme hot and cold temperatures; as well as road closures that resulted in booking cancellations, lost revenue, and supply chain issues; all in a single year.

If not for the government support programs, we would not be in business. Now, savings are depleted, costs cut to the minimum, and debt incurred. Despite efforts towards health and safety, the risk of new variants interrupting business again is possible at any time, with little notice.

While most other segments of the economy have started to recover, the Thompson Okanagan tourism industry including in your constituency, continues to suffer from the lingering effects of Omicron-related cancellations, while prospects of future bookings remain in limbo due to ongoing border and travel restrictions.

It is deeply concerning that the Tourism & Hospitality Recovery Program that was designed pre-Omicron has not been adjusted to reflect the current, ongoing reality and potential risks. In March, this program will be cut in half while so many of tourism businesses continue to bleed cash and will struggle over the Spring, in a time when they should be focused on preparations for the peak Summer season.

It will be difficult for businesses to ramp up and prepare for the Summer season when so many staff moved to jobs in other sectors and challenging to attract staff back when the industry has been so deeply destabilized and continues to face uncertainty about the return of international travellers.

That is why we urge you to support the [budget recommendations put forward by the Hardest Hit Coalition](#) (click link or visit [HardestHit.ca](https://hardesthit.ca)) that address critical flaws in the Tourism Hospitality Recovery Program, including:

- Reverse 50% wind down and maintain full subsidy rates until THRP is no longer needed.
- Extend THRP to September 2022.
- Adjust eligibility for seasonal businesses.
- Lower qualifying revenue loss threshold to 20%.

We are also calling for:

- A clear and predictable plan to open the border.
- A dedicated labour strategy for the tourism and hospitality sector.
- Removal of barriers, like pre-arrival testing for fully vaccinated travellers at the border.

The government has helped keep tourism businesses alive this far; now we just need to make it through the Spring so we can get back on our feet, bring employees back to work, and prepare for the critical summer months ahead.

Please call on the Minister of Finance to give Canada's hardest-hit businesses the support we need to survive and build back.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]

[Company]

[Address]

[City, Province], Canada

[email]